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Champion
3 June 2015 Vol 22 • Issue 23 www.champnews.com

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FREE PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT INSIDE
The Champion focus on Summer Living

Pupils at Aughton Town Green Primary School spell out how much they raised for the NSPCC

Pupils' way with words spells welcome boost for children's charity . . .

BRIGHT youngsters at a local school have certainly got a way with words and they put their talents to good effect to raise more than £4,000 for charity.

Pupils at Aughton Town Green Primary School held a sponsored spelling contest and with support from family and friends their efforts realised a grand total of £4,020 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Headteacher at the school in Town Green Lane, Mr Huxley, said: "Following an introductory assembly, the children were really determined to raise money.

"It is essential that our children recognise the importance of charity events and are able to develop that sense of empathy for people less fortunate than themselves.

"We are very proud of their efforts and would like to thank the whole school community for their support."

COUPLE'S £5,000 TARGET FOR NEONATAL UNIT

Report by **Holly Rummens**

A COUPLE who believe their young son owes his life to the care and dedication of staff at Ormskirk Hospital's neonatal unit are urging local residents to support their efforts to raise money to help fund a vital piece of equipment.

When little Theo Graham was born prematurely at 30 weeks and weighing little more than a bag of sugar at just 2lb 8oz, parents Emma and Lee feared the worst.

However, 10 weeks of lifesaving treatment at the unit saw the little battler making a miraculous recovery and, although suffering some respiratory problems, Theo is an otherwise healthy two–year–old.

The overjoyed Formby couple vowed to hold a fundraiser each year on their son's birthday in aid of staff at the Ormskirk Neonatal Unit as a way to show their gratitude to those who helped save little Theo's life.

And, following the popularity of a charity ball, which sold out just weeks after details were released, the pair have organised a whole host of other activities, with many more planned, to help the hospital reach their £40,000 target to help purchase a new transport incubator.

Lee and Emma Graham with little Theo

Emma, who works as an occupational therapist, said: "We had originally planned just one event for this year but that has now changed and we have planned several.

"The neonatal unit are still hoping to raise enough funds for a transport incubator costing £40,000 so I decided I would do as many events as possible to help them raise the money.

"I think overall we have raised just under £3,000 for the hospital since I started fundraising and I am hoping to make it to £5,000 by the end of October.

"During April we raised more than £1,000 with a collection at Iceland, Formby, a raffle at the local Slimming World group and an online auction to win a BBQ kindly donated by Homebase in Formby.

"The neonatal unit was also one of the winners of the Community Matters Boxes at Waitrose Formby, while the local Marks and Spencer's have also agreed to have the unit as their charity of the year for 2015, and they will be carrying out fundraising events within the store."

The next events planned include a bag packing event in Marks and Spencer on Halsall Lane, Formby in July and bucket collections at Dobbies garden centre in August.

Emma said she is hoping the charity ball will help her towards her £5,000 target, with a raffle and auction already included in the evening's activities.

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Mayor signs off with £16,500 charity boost

THE outgoing Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Doreen Stephenson, signed off from her year of office by presenting cheques totalling £16,500 to her designated local charities.

The final total was reached by Cllr. Stephenson and her husband and consort John, with the support of the Mayor's Charity Committee, with a range of fundraising events at venues throughout the borough over the last 12 months.

Cllr. Stephenson said: "It has been a real pleasure for me to raise these funds and John and I are very grateful to the hard–working members of the Mayor's Charity Committee. I have many happy memories of the fundraising events that have been organised and I hope the money we have raised will make a big difference to these very worthy causes."

The Skem Men–aces football team for adults with learning disabilities received a cheque for £12,000 which will go towards a new minibus.

Team manager, Carl Eaton, said: "Transport is a huge expense for us and we have been talking about buying a minibus for five years. Thanks to the money from the mayor's charity we have been able to sign on the dotted line for the vehicle and we will be very proud to drive around the country in our minibus."

Councillor Stephenson presents cheques to charities she supported in her mayoral year.

Home–Start Central Lancashire received £2,000 to help train new volunteers to help its work in supporting families with young children who are experiencing difficulties.

Manager, Carole Lee, said: "Being one of the mayor's charities this year has been fantastic for us in helping raise our profile. The money raised will go towards training new volunteers to help families and work with the four family support groups in West Lancs."

A further £2,000 was donated to Ormskirk Hospital Radio.

Brian Conlan, programme controller, said: "We are very grateful for this funding to upgrade our equipment and help us provide a service to even more people. Many West Lancs residents use Southport Hospital and we have been able to start broadcasting to there as well as Ormskirk."

A further £500 has been donated to the spire renovation fund at St Cuthbert's CE Church, Halsall, which aims to raise more than £300,000 for the Grade 1 listed building.

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Civic duo help launch innovative community fundraising venture

By **Danielle Thompson**

THE new Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy and deputy mayor, Councillor Liz Savage were among guests at an innovative fundraising dinner at Ormskirk Civic Hall.

The event was organised by Ormskirk Soup, an initiative inspired by the Detroit Soup movement, with the aim of funding 'micro–grants' for community projects in Lancashire.

Guests are charged £5 to attend, which includes a meal of bread and soup, and representatives of local projects – including charities and arts and educational groups – are invited to address the audience outlining what they want the grant for.

Each 'presenter' has four minutes to share their idea and answer four questions from the audience.

Attendees then vote for the project they want to support and the one with the most votes goes home with the money raised. They then have to report on their project's progress at the next dinner.

The audience at the civic hall event on Friday, May 22, heard from four groups, Dream–makers Drama Society and the Engine Rooms, both based in Skelmersdale, the West Lancashire Princes's Trust and Lancaster–based Ludus Dance.

Platform

The winning group, Dream–makers, were awarded £220 which they will use for a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Andy Napoleon Hill, one of the organisers of Ormskirk Soup, said: "Soup is essentially a micro–granting dinner aimed at connecting with local groups and charities, offering them a platform to tell us about themselves and hopefully secure themselves a micro–grant.

"After the presentations there's time to discuss which project you think benefits the community the most over a bowl of soup.

"Once all the votes are cast and counted we announce who the winner is and they go home with all of the money raised at the door to carry out their project.

"At the dinner, residents and supporters connect, share ideas and community resources.

"It would be great to get as many people behind this as we can, hopefully leading to bigger grants.

"This isn't just a one–off and we're looking to get about six a year booked, giving different community groups a chance to present ideas."

Organiser Andy Hill (centre left) welcomes the Mayor of West Lancs, Cllr. Nikki Hennessy and deputy mayor, Cllr. Liz Savage, to the first Ormskirk Soup funding project.

• FOR more information email soup@wearenapoleon.co.uk, call 01695 363473 or visit their Facebook page, Ormskirk Soup.

Family raise £3,000 for cancer charity

Report by **Louisa Austin**

THE family of a former Tarleton Community Primary School pupil who is battling cancer, have raised more than £3,000 in her name for The Brain Tumour Charity.

Emma Roberts was diagnosed with a grade three malignant tumour in July last year.

The 29–year–old, who now lives in the West Midlands, had been suffering severe headaches which had originally been attributed to migraine.

But when she collapsed at a family celebration for her grandfather's 81st birthday subsequent scans revealed a fast–growing tumour the size of a tennis ball.

Since then history teacher Emma has undergone two operations, as well as six weeks of radiotherapy and ongoing chemotherapy.

Emma's father and stepmother, Michael and Tracy Johnson, along with Michael's cousin Trevor Still and his wife Sharon, held a coffee, tea and cake event at Tarleton Bowling Club to raise vital funds for the charity.

Tracy said: "We are very grateful to everyone who attended, to all the family and friends who gave up their time to help and to the local businesses who donated money or raffle/tombola prizes for their much–needed help and support."

Councillor slams delay in updating data on student housing market in town

Report by **Henry James**

AN Ormskirk councillor has called for an end to the delay in updating important information on the current state of the student housing market in the town.

Adrian Owens, Our West Lancashire councillor for the town–centre Derby ward, said that the borough council and Edge Hill have been in communication since last October but that the data on updated student housing market needs was still not available.

Cllr. Owens said: "Our local plan states that it must be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for purpose–built student accommodation. My gut feel is that such accommodation will still reduce pressure on housing elsewhere but the situation is altering and we need up–to–date data as the amount of student housing and the need for it has changed rapidly in recent years.

"I have enquired again in the past week and the updated data that the planning committee need is not yet available, in spite of the council and Edge Hill talking about it for almost nine months.

"Edge Hill supplied some very basic information before Christmas and promised to provide more. In March they said they had someone working on it and yet still it's awaited. The council also have other information sources from council tax and other records but this has also not been forthcoming."

Cllr Owens said it was known that student intake at Edge Hill had fallen since its peak in 2011 and that some houses in the town used for student accommodation were taking longer to let than a year or two ago.

And he added: "There are planning applications for student accommodation under consideration currently and it's wrong that information the planning committee need to assess these adequately against our planning policy is being so severely delayed."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council said: "The council's planning policy on student accommodation is essentially to limit the growth of HMOs in Ormskirk and the immediate surrounding area, especially in areas where there is already a concentration of HMOs, by allowing purpose–built student accommodation on–campus and in appropriate locations elsewhere and only allowing new HMOs where there is not a concentration of HMOs already on a given street.

"It is also hoped that this policy will eventually result in the reversion of some of the HMOs in areas of high concentration back into single household residential use.

"The council considers the introduction of the policy in the Local Plan is having the positive impact it had envisaged, given the reduced number of HMOs and the increased provision of purpose–built student accommodation but that there is still a demand for more student accommodation in the Ormskirk area. The council are working with Edge Hill University to collate the data necessary to provide a clear picture of demand for student accommodation in the Ormskirk area."

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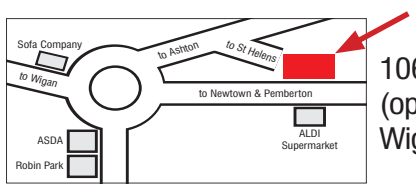

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Tory chief slams new 'left wing' council leadership

Report by **Henry James**

THE former leader of West Lancs Council has fired a broadside at the new Labour–controlled administration.

In an e–mail to the Champion, Councillor David Westley, who has been re–elected as leader of the council's Conservative group, wrote: "The council AGM saw the success of a left wing and unreformed socialist coup with the election of a new Labour leader of the council and the appointment of a cabinet stuffed full with trade union activists.

"The Labour group turned out to be something of a wolf in sheep's clothing when they ditched their previous leader Councillor Roger Bell, a moderate and former Lib–Dem member. Any voter who voted for Rosie Cooper MP, another ex–Lib–Dem, and thought her moderate politics were reflected in the council's Labour group will be in for a nasty shock and may feel there has been a breach of the Trades Description Act."

Cllr. Westley repeated his claims that the Tories' vote had been 'squeezed' by UKIP and Our West Lancashire and pledged that they would hold the new administration to account.

Councillor David Westley

He continued: "The new Labour leader, Councillor Moran has already given a clear indication of his socialist dogma when in his acceptance speech he made reference to 'growing the council'. This followed on from the public statement by Councillor Wynn, finance portfolio holder which lamented the reduction in the number of staff employed by the council brought about by the necessary cost–saving measures of the previous Conservative administration.

"The Conservative vote was squeezed by UKIP, whose parliamentary candidate, after being suspended has since joined the BNP, and Our West Lancashire, less of a political party and more about failed political ambition together with an ill thought–out set of policies more designed to grab a headline than bear serious consideration."

Cllr. Westley added: " The Conservatives will be an effective opposition and will fight tooth and nail to preserve the council's cost–effective frontline services and resolutely resist Labour imposing unnecessary increases in council tax."

In response, new council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "We would like to thank the people of West Lancashire for putting their faith in us and we look forward to growing the economy of the borough, creating better job opportunities and establishing a more outward focused and entrepreneurial council that will develop a range of partnerships and initiatives that will enable us to protect front–line services."

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‘Council charge me £20 a week for a service I don’t need or want!’

By **Danielle Thompson**

A DISABLED man who had to move out of his council flat due to damp and mould problems says he is now being forced to pay West Lancs Council more than £20 per week for a warden service that he doesn’t want or need.

And he claims the charge is forcing him to cut back on essentials, including gas, electricity and food.

The 57–year–old former legal advocate, who prefers to remain anonymous, had to leave his home in Scott Drive, Ormskirk when the flat above flooded and his property subsequently became infested with black mould.

Although he suffers from arthritis, he is fully independent and was initially pleased to move to a bungalow in nearby Green Lane Avenue.

However, he was shocked to find there was a weekly £20.88 warden charge at the new property and rang the borough council to tell them that he neither needed nor wanted the service and would like to ‘opt out’ of the scheme.

But he says this was refused and he claims the council won’t tell him why he has to pay the charge.

He said: “This bungalow is better for me than the damp, mouldy flat but the council are forcing me to pay £20.88 a week on top of my rent – before benefit reductions– to live here.

“I’ve already refused the warden service but am being forced to pay this money and the council won’t tell me why.

“Because of the charge I can’t heat this place or carpet it and I’m also cutting back on gas, electricity and water useage, plus food.

“In 21 years as an advocate, I never once came across any law that said this enforced charge was legal or needed.”

A spokesman for West Lancashire Borough Council said: “The resident chose this property and would have been fully aware of the charges as they are described in the property advert. They are also explained before a resident agrees to take up a sheltered housing tenancy.

“It is inappropriate to comment on an individual’s circumstances. However there is no cost to residents in receipt of housing benefit as any sheltered housing charges are funded through the Supporting People grant funding from Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council.

“Tenants living in sheltered housing who pay the charge and face general financial difficulties can access the free rent and money advice service the council provides.

“The council’s sheltered housing stock has for many years offered specific services for its elderly residents, which has included a warden service.

“These services have always formed part of the property tenancy agreement. Whilst residents can still have regular warden visits, since 1986 they have also been able to use pull cords and pendants to contact wardens and Home Care Link to supplement existing warden services.”

Excellent response to drama group’s appeal

OFFICIALS of a local drama club have been “overwhelmed” by public support following the news that they are seeking a new base.

The Ormskirk Theatre Company had been based at Upstairs at Disraelis in Church Street since July 2013 where they staged 30 different productions, ranging from pantomime to rock and jazz.

But the owners of the site have announced plans to refurbish the property and the theatre was closed following the company’s last production on May 9. A ‘Save Ormskirk Theatre’ appeal was subsequently launched with members of the public asked to suggest a new venue.

Alexandra Harvey, from the Ormskirk Theatre Company, said: “Disraelis is due for refurbishment, and sadly the continuation of our theatre is not part of the plans. Consequently, we closed our doors for the last time in May, leaving the OTC and our friends, The Derby Players, without a home.

“It seemed a cruel twist of fate that we should find ourselves in this position after arguably the most successful two–year period in our history, with 25 nominations and seven National Operatic and Dramatic Association awards.

“However, we have been overwhelmed by suggestions for an alternative venue and a widespread appeal has attracted an excellent level of public support.

“We met with other local theatre companies to discuss the situation and talks are now in progress and we thank everyone for their support.”

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£9,000 grant boost for Sporting Challenge

A CHARITY which supports adults with learning difficulties to enjoy a range of sports has been given a grant for more than £9,000.

Sporting Challenge is made up of parents and carers who have been providing sporting activities for around 30 people with learning difficulties in West Lancashire since 2008

The charity has been given a grant offer of £9,180 from the Big Lottery Fund to be spent on bowling, boccia/kurling, aerobics, fitness training, country walks, and 12 sports taster sessions, starting in August.

Every year the Big Lottery Fund gives out millions of pounds from the UK's National Lottery to good causes, including community groups and health, education and environment projects.

It can be troublesome for people with learning difficulties to access sport and exercise activities. Barriers they face include parents or carers being unable to physically take them and stay with them at classes, while they can also experience physical obstacles to participating in mainstream sport and exercise classes.

Members of Sporting Challenge enjoying a day out at Rock and River outdoor pursuits and activity centre in Mawdesley

The charity organise evening and weekend activities including ten–pin bowling, aerobics, swimming, archery, Wii nights, boccia, kurling, and dance sessions.

The classes are a great way for their service users to have fun, make friends and lead an active lifestyle and they also provide some respite care for their families and carers.

Sporting Challenge also provides special workers who can collect participants from where they live and provide much–needed support while they are having fun, before dropping them off back home.

Secretary and trustee, Edward McCarthy, said: "I am delighted with this funding award from the Big Lottery Fund. It is a wonderful opportunity for Sporting Challenge."

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International squad in sevens tribute to local 'legend'

MEMBERS of a national rugby squad are heading to West Lancashire to play in a tournament in honour of a local 'legend' they never knew!

Jonathan Skofic, born in England but of Slovenian descent, died in 2011 without seeing his five sons create a world record by playing for his ancestral nation on the international stage.

Now Slovenia are sending a side to compete in the annual Jonathan Skofic Sevens Tournament at Tarleton RUFC on Saturday (June 6) in memory of the club's co–founder and former chairman.

And the Skofic boys, who became the first five brothers in rugby history to take the field together in a competitive game, could face their international teammates at the popular event which is now in its fourth year.

Oldest brother, Jack, said: "We are delighted to be hosting the Slovenia sevens national squad who have entered a team in this summer's event.

"All five of us are very proud to have been capped in both 15s and sevens formats for Slovenia and we now look forward to going up against them as we continue the tradition of entering a family–based Skofic team in the tournament."

Dad Jonathan captained Bath University rugby side and later played at Preston Grasshoppers before helping to found Tarleton Rugby Club 25 years ago. He was still turning out occasionally for the second team just weeks before his untimely death.

His dream had always been to see his five sons play in the same side together – and possibly even join them on the pitch. Sadly, he passed away less than two years before they achieved that feat before going on to be capped by Slovenia.

The sevens tournament was launched in Jonathan's memory in 2012 and this year it will include a women's competition as well as men's elite and open sections.

Added Jack: "It's a testament to everyone involved, from volunteers, to players, to those who come down and support the event, that we are able to continue to deliver a competition which encompasses many of the principals of my dad and Tarleton Rugby Club.

"The enjoyment of everyone involved is a great testament to his memory and all he was passionate about."

Jonathan Skofic

Couple open garden to public in aid of charities

A NUMBER of charities are set to benefit when Marian and Brian Jones' garden at 72 Ludlow Drive becomes the first in Ormskirk to be open to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

The new Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Niki Hennessy, will perform the opening ceremony at 11am on Sunday, June 21 and the garden will be open until 4pm.

Admission is £3 for adults and free for accompanied children with proceeds from the scheme going to caring charities, plus donations to the Ormskirk St Anne's Church Roof appeal and the Neonatal Unit Endowment Fund where Marian works as a nurse.

Last year the NGS in Lancashire alone raised more than £67,000 for charities including Marie Curie Cancer, Macmillan Cancer Support Care, Parkinson's UK and Hospice UK.

The garden has a collection of shade–loving plants, a gravel garden, colourful herbaceous shrub borders, roses, clematis, a pond and alpine troughs. There will also be tea and homemade cakes and plant sales.

Although it is currently the only Ormskirk garden open under the NGS, Marian and Brian are hoping to encourage other keen local gardeners to join them next year in opening their gardens for charity.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Homestyle Factory Kitchens is open to both trade and retail customers and has ranges on offer to suit all tastes and budgets, so you're bound to find the kitchen, bedroom or home office of your dreams.

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Appeal to find early hours robber who targeted woman

POLICE have issued a description of a man they would like to talk to in connection with an incident in which a woman was robbed as she made her way home in the early hours of a weekend morning.

The 20–year–old victim was walking along St Helens Road, Ormskirk at around 2.20am on Sunday, May 17 when she was approached by a man who pushed her to the floor, causing her to drop her mobile phone and handbag.

The man then picked up the phone and a purse before running away from the scene.

He is described as white, aged about around 19 to 21 years and of medium build with short hair. He was wearing a suit, tie and white shirt and a distinctive pair of 3D–style glasses with thick rims and square lenses.

DC Dom Webster of Skelmersdale CID said: "We would like to speak to this man in connection with this incident and I would urge anyone who recognises the description or has any information to contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 01695 566 179 or 101; or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers–uk.org.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Manager Paul Kane feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Tarleton man jailed for role in whisky and chocolate heist

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A 55–year–old man from West Lancashire has been jailed for more than four years for his part in the theft of more than £200,000 worth of chocolate and £23,000 worth of whisky.

Graham Ascroft of Higher Lane, Tarleton was a member of a six–strong gang who stole three lorries and their loads in Kent in April 2013.

Kent Police said the men were organised, professional thieves who stole lorries and goods to sell on – with one of the lorries left abandoned in Tarleton.

One refrigerated trailer contained £201,000 worth of Toblerone chocolate, which has never been recovered.

The whisky, with a retail value of £23,000, was stolen from the trailer of another lorry parked in a haulage yard in Lydden, Kent.

Maidstone Crown Court heard that this was only discovered when the lorry driver arrived at the Port of Dover en route to the continent.

A second lorry, worth £40,000, was taken from a haulage yard in Whitfield, Kent and discovered four days later with false number plates in nearby Eythorne.

The third lorry, which contained the chocolate, was stolen from the haulage yard in Lydden and later found abandoned in Tarleton.

The men were arrested after police searched properties in Kent, Merseyside, Lancashire and North Wales.

Graham Ascroft

Ascroft was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison with the other members of the gang, from Liverpool and Kent, also sentenced to between four and five years each.

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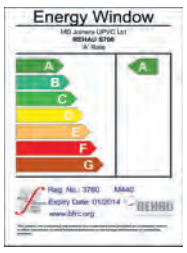

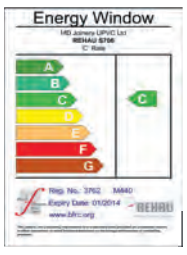

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Life–saver installed at junior football club's school base

A POTENTIALLY life–saving defibrillator has been presented to Burscough Junior Football Club by Sue Murrin–Bailey of the Lancashire Defibrillator Campaign (LDC).

Former mayoress of West Lancashire Sue, who founded the campaign in 2012 to make publicly–accessible defibrillators available across the borough, presented the equipment toAmanda Hesketh, secretary and child welfare officer at the club which caters for boys and girls aged six and upwards.

It has now been fitted on to a wall at Burscough Priory Science College, where the club is currently based.

Sue Murrin–Bailey said: "We are delighted to have provided this life–saving equipment to Burscough Junior Football Club at Burscough Priory Science College for use by the club and school.

"This helps provide a vital link in the chain of defibrillators throughout communities across West Lancashire.

"The football club and school are shortly having their familiarisation training and will work to encourage all staff, football members and pupils to engage with knowing where the defibrillator is and how to use it which is fantastic and a great example of taking care of the local community."

Sue Murrin–Bailey (right) and Burscough Priory Science College's head of PE Danielle Baker with the LDC mascot and the newly–installed defibrillator

Meanwhile, parents and members of the football club have also been fundraising throughout the year for a defibrillator to install at their Abbey Lane base when it re–opens after extensive renovation and they will be leaving the one donated to the club at the school.

Amanda Hesketh said: "We have money in the funds for another defibrillator at Abbey Lane when it re–opens therefore if felt right to donate this one to Burscough Priory Science College as it has been our training and home ground for a number of the teams."

• ANY sports clubs or schools in Lancashire wanting information about defibrillators and training can email lancsdefibs@justshocking.org.uk.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

CHAMPION NEWSPAPERS
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Glenburn closure decision is a kick in teeth for Skelmersdale

IN response to your front page story 'Final Bell Tolls for Glenburn!' (Champion, May 20) this unforgiveable decision by Lancashire County Council has caused great anger among parents, pupils and our local community.

Closing this school was the easy option and Lancashire County Council has ducked from a complete review of secondary education in Skelmersdale.

Once again Skelmersdale has been let down when what we really needed was a new school with new facilities.

At present there's a lot of work going on to bring investment into the town so this decision is a kick in the teeth for all of us who want to see regeneration in Skelmersdale.

We fail to see how closing our town–centre high school will attract more people to live in Skelmersdale and we fail to see how this closure will attract more business investment into the town.

We share parents' concerns over this appalling decision and they are rightly angered at how this closure has been handled. In reaching their decision Lancashire County Council has completely ignored the views of parents, pupils and our local community.

From our point of view the responsibility for closure of Glenburn Sports College rests with Lancashire County Council and Ofsted, both of whom have failed miserably in their duty to ensure this school remained open and improved its performance.

Councillors Neil Furey and Jenny Patterson, Skelmersdale North Ward

Student flats plan will mean more misery for local residents

I WRITE with regards to the proposal to demolish the Fat Olive restaurant and replace it with a four–storey block for students.

This application by the McComb Property Company was first submitted in October 2014 but was withdrawn.

They have now re–applied for planning permission in May 2015.

I am vehemently opposed to this project on the grounds of the misery it will cause for the residents of Beaconsfield Court which is situated next to the Fat Olive restaurant.

We already suffer from noisy students passing our premises at 2am following their drinking sessions in the local pubs.

This new block of flats (if allowed) would mean that we will be surrounded by student property.

I am led to believe that there is a formula governing the new build of student flats in ratio to private property in the same area. This particular area of town is so small that I am sure this further development would contravene such a formula.

Finally, it's about time someone made a stance against the property speculators that are blighting our town. They are not interested in the older generation and are only looking at the huge profits they are generating from these properties.

W. A. Smith,
site director, Beaconsfield Court

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Motoring for pleasure.... A Buick from 1908 – when the pace of travel was a little less frantic – leaves the tranquillity of Rufford Old Hall car park before meeting up with fellow veteran vehicle owners who were taking part in a tour of the region.

Cast–offs are not the answer to ending rail nightmare for commuters

I SUPPORT Tony Holland's comments (Letters, May 27) in relation to Northern Rail.

Between 2004 and 2008 I travelled daily from Appley Bridge to Manchester Airport and complained loud and long about the trains on this journey.

Always there were only two coaches in a morning which were full to cattle truck level, as Tony says, by the time they reached Appley Bridge and we were forced to stand on a dirty and often cold train for the hour–long journey.

On many occasions I contacted Rosie Cooper who, bless her, always assured me that things were getting better and we would have more rolling stock which would result in a fast solution to the problem.

Unfortunately she was incorrect and the problem continues.

I understand they did have a few carriages which were not fit for decent lines like Trans Pennine and deemed suitable for Northern Rail passengers.

Can Rosie Cooper now tell us what the master plan is in getting the next generation of rolling stock cast–offs from our southern 'betters.'

Cecilia Ann Fairhurst,
by email

Tell us what you think!
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Chance to get it off your chest...

We want to hear your views

IF you've got a point of view about a topic of local or national interest and want to 'get it off your chest', we want to hear from you.

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words long, and should include the name, address and a contact telephone number, or email address, of the sender for the purpose of clarification, although not necessarily for publication.

Submissions, marked 'Letters to the editor', can be posted or handed in to Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA or sent via email to editorial@champnews.com.

Correspondents should also note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

One rule for dogs, another for horses?

I'VE read many letters about dog mess and cycles on the pavements, even written a few myself, but this made me wonder if anyone cares anymore.

One evening last week two mounted police women rode past our house and continued along Southport Road, the next day there were several heaps of horse dung on the pavement. These must have been there when the children and parents were going to school.

I know that the rider cannot tell when a horse does its business but being trained riders and police I thought they would have had the horse sense to ride in the road.

I bet if they had seen a dog walker leaving mess on the pavement they wouldn't hesitate to issue a fine.

Walter Lonsdale, by email

Seven years on from meetings and Westhead's traffic problems continue

I READ with interest a local party flyer where the candidate, together with Councillor Fillis, were asked to sort out high levels of traffic through Westhead, particularly by the school.

I attended meetings in 2008 by a group calling themselves Protect Rural Ormskirk (Pro) who were against the Ormskirk bypass and said that the traffic situation in Ormskirk can be solved by an adjustment to the traffic light sequences.

The residents of Westhead who attended the Pro meeting were more worried about a drop in house prices should the bypass go ahead.

That was in 2008 it is now 2015 and traffic will only get worse.

Perhaps the Pro and the residents of Westhead should meet again and ask the transport cabinet member for Lancashire, Cllr. Fillis, who has had two highways masterplan consultion drafts printed. I am sure he has the solution, with the help of Pro.

B. French,
Ormskirk

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Advertising Feature

Help your Local Charity by Donating Mobility Equipment

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Peter Cousins MBE, Chairman of Brighter Future Workshop said, "I am concerned about the amount of mobility equipment that is being thrown away after use instead of being recycled. Waiting lists for equipment continues to grow; if more equipment was recycled it could help drastically to cut these lists."

Brighter Future Mobility a local multi award winning charity who recycle mobility equipment are making an appeal to people who have received white goods from their doctor or chemist e.g. Shower Chairs, Stools, Perching Stools, Over Bed Tables and Toilet Frames etc., and any other equipment e.g. Wheelchairs, Mobility Scooters, Walking Aids etc. to donate them to us when they are no longer needed.

For further information call Brighter Future Mobility on 01695 724362 or 01695 579971

Countless 1000's of pieces of mobility equipment are needlessly thrown out after use by the local people of West Lancs and end up in land fill sites. This is shameful when approximately 70% of this equipment could be recycled and re-used by other local people, some who have waited months for the mobility equipment and aids they need.

You can drop off donations at 20 Greenhey Place, Skelmersdale WN8 9SA or at Brighter Future Mobility Shop on Aldi/ Mc Donald's car park in Ormskirk. Collection of the equipment can also be arranged by calling the numbers above.

Free, fun park events in store

A NUMBER of free, fun events are being staged in West Lancashire's parks during June.

Coronation Park, Ormskirk hosts the 'Eat to the Beat' music and food extravaganza on Sunday, June 7 from noon to 4pm, featuring local bands and community groups performing and providing activities for the public to take part in.

Talented student bands and musicians from the Sound Affects Studios' School Of Rock will provide music, along with Erin Howard, Andy Seddon and Flashmob.

There will also be dance workshops, a climbing wall, Gruffalo Trail, and a chance to play tennis and show off your football skills.

'Eat to the Beat' also incorporates The Big Lunch, hosted by staff from the Halifax Bank and food treats will include a barbecue, sandwiches, cakes, sweets, candy floss and ice creams.

On Saturday, June 13 visitors to Beacon Country Park can join the council 's rangers on the 'Useful and Edible Plants' walk, starting at 10am, a gentle, three–mile stroll on which local experts will reveal some of the fascinating uses for different plants found growing all around us. It's free to attend but booking is essential on 01695 622794 or by email to beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk.

Meanwhile, volunteers can help the rangers tackle the problem of Himalayan Balsam, a plant that is choking out our native flora, at their 'Balsam Bashing' event on Sunday, June 14. Volunteers should meet at the lay–by opposite Fairy Glen on the A5209 at Appley Bridge, at 10am.

And Richmond Park in Burscough is hosting a fun day on Sunday, June 28 between 11am and 4pm. This is supported by the Friends of Richmond Park and will feature a funfair, bouncy castle and dog show, as well as 'have a go' sessions at tennis and bowling and a five–a–side football competition.

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Public urged to take part in crime survey

RESIDENTS and local businesses in West Lancashire are being enouraged to take part in the biggest rural crime survey held in the region.

Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, is calling on members of the public in the borough and owners of businesses based here to contribute to the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) surve.

Respondents are invited to give their views on policing in their community and the impact that crime and anti–social behaviour has on them and their neighbours, to ultimately help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing.

The survey has now opened and will run until Wednesday, June 24.

Clive Grunshaw

Commissioner Clive Grunshaw said: "This is a great opportunity for residents of rural areas of the county to raise concerns about crime in their local area and to provide feedback on local policing.

"The more we know about the issues concerning our rural communities the better we can address them in the future.

"If you live in a rural part of Lancashire I would urge you to take part in the survey to ensure that the outcomes reflect your views."

The survey, which is taking place with support from the Home Office, aims to build a body of information to improve national awareness of crime in rural areas as well as provide a clearer picture of attitudes towards crime to help inform government and local policy.

To take part go to www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/survey.

Couples wanted for reality TV show

COUPLES from across West Lancashire are being invited to sign up for the next series of a reality TV show where entrants compete to show that they are the best dinner hosts in their own homes.

Channel 4's 'Couples Come Dine With' features three couples who each take turns to cook and host a dinner party for the others with the winning pair receiving a £1,000 cash prize.

A spokesman for the programme's makers, ITV Plc, said: "We are currently looking for some fantastic couples that are in a relationship to take part in the show and we'd love to here from couples in West Lancashire. Please state in your email what area you are applying for and who you are applying with along with your contact telephone numbers."

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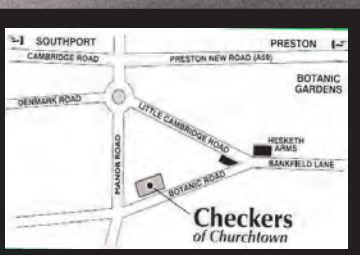

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County's new chair steps up

THE new chairman of Lancashire County Council has commenced her year in office, making the authority one of the first in the country to be headed up by three women.

County Councillor Margaret Brindle, who represents the Burnley Rural division, was appointed at the annual meeting of the full council and joins leader, Councillor Jennifer Mein, and chief executive, Jo Turton, in the most senior roles at the council.

A county councillor since 2009, Ms Brindle steps up to the chair after serving as vice–chairman to County Councillor Kevin Ellard for the past year.

She was born in Enfield, North London and spent time in care before moving to Burnley at age 10. After leaving the high school she worked in a building society, eventually becoming a cashier in a central London branch during the 1960s.

Council, County Councillor Margaret Brindle

She returned to Lancashire and attended Burnley College before going on to work for the DHSS and the state pension section.

In addition to the civil service, she also worked alongside her husband William in his design and print company, creating artwork for the packaging industry.

For the last 14 years of her working life, Margaret was a housing benefit officer for Burnley Borough Council, gaining an Institute of Revenues, Ratings and Valuation Technician qualification while in this post.

Commenting on her new role she said: "I want to help people, particularly older people and young people who are coming out of care. I know from experience that they have a lot to face and I hope to increase awareness of this during my year as chairman.

"Over the past year I've worked alongside Kevin Ellard, who was an excellent chairman. On behalf of Lancashire I'd like to thank him for his work."

The new vice–chairman is County Councillor Janice Hanson who has been a member of the council since 2005.

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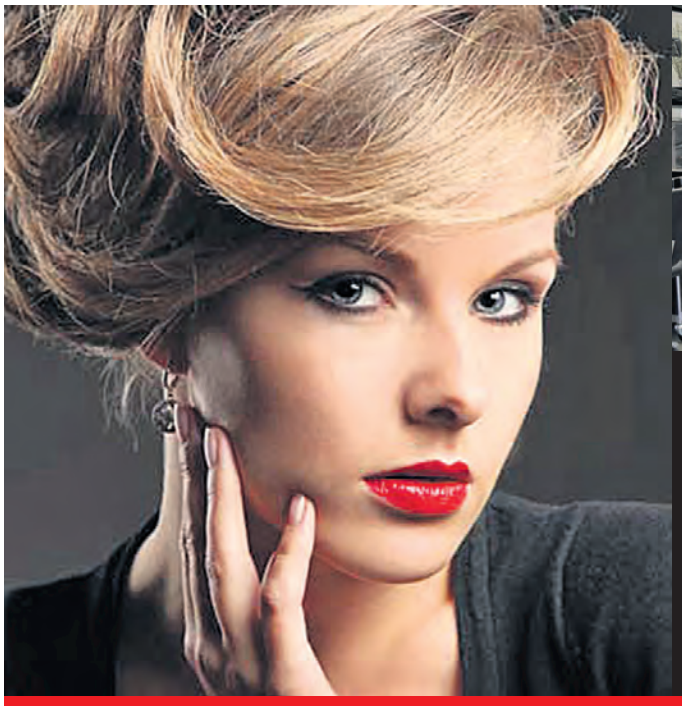

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Special charter mark award for 'inclusive' local hospital trust

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has been recognised for its 'inclusive' attitude to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

The trust was awarded the Navajo charter mark for their treatment of LGBTI patients

Audrey Cushion, deputy director of human resources and Lin Douglas, equalities lead, received the award at the annual Merseyside and Cheshire LGBTI partnership ceremony in Liverpool.

The Navajo movement, started in Lancashire in1999, tackles inequality and prejudice, and recognises that social well–being and acceptance in society of lesbian, gay and bisexual people has a positive impact on their health. More recently the scheme has been extended to include transgender people too.

Tolerance

The name Navajo was chosen in tribute to the traditions of tolerance, non–discrimination and goodwill that historically formed a central part of the North American Navajo Nation's belief system.

Audrey Cushion said: "The charter mark assessment takes into account an organisation's practices and policies, how it trains and recruits, and how it engages with staff. We are very proud to be one of the 11 organisations in Merseyside and Cheshire to be awarded it."

Lin Douglas added: "I am delighted we have achieved this award. We have taken positive steps in addressing these issues and the charter mark will support employees and users of our services who identify as LGBTI."

Audrey Cushion and Lin Douglas with the Navajo charter mark certificate

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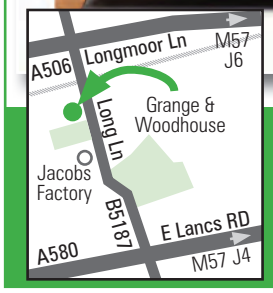

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Lucy takes on 150–mile charity cycle challenge

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

CHAMPION sales executive Lucy Chalmers is hoping to become a charity champion as well by taking on a gruelling 150–mile round trip to help buy a caravan!

The 25–year–old will join more than 100 other girl cyclists on a charity ride between Gosport and Newhaven on June 19 to raise vital funds for the Oakley Waterman Caravan Foundation.

The Oakley Waterman Caravan Foundation was started by Dave and Lorraine Waterman from Gosport shortly before their six–year–old son Oakley died of a rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma in 2005.

It was while the family were enjoying precious time together staying in a caravan at Church Farm Holiday Village at Pagham near Chichester that the charity was born.

Oakley wished they could purchase a caravan at Church Farm, which he loved so much, so it could also be used by other children, who are suffering with similar life threatening illnesses.

"With the help of some friends a caravan was purchased at the site in 2005 and in 2007 a second caravan was purchased at another site overlooking the sea at Devon Cliffs near Exeter.

Said Lucy: "I'm really looking forward to the challenge and I can't wait to raise as much as possible for the foundation – it's going to be tough but I've been training for weeks!

"It's not the easiest thing in the world – me on a bike!

"But it's all for a really worthy cause. If anyone would like to donate, any pennies are appreciated on my justgiving page."

• To sponsor Lucy and donate to the cause visit www.justgiving.com/lucy–chalmers.

Lucy outside the Champ's offices

Communication pole plan

PLANS have been submitted to install a new 12–metre high electronic communication pole in Burscough.

Telecommunications company Arqiva have submitted plans for the static pole with an antenna and two equipment cabinets on land adjacent to Ellerbrook Drive.

West Lancashire Borough Council plan to make a decision on the application by Friday, June 12.

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Edge Hill study uses phones to monitor alcohol consumption

A STUDY by academics at Edge Hill University has used smartphones to try and reveal the reasons why alcohol consumption is significantly under–reported.

In the newly–published paper for Alcohol Research UK, it has been suggested that asking people to recall how much alcohol they have consumed in the previous day or week leads to reporting inaccuracies.

These underestimations may not just be a result of failing to include alcohol consumed during holidays and special events, but might actually be attributed to the setting and type of drinks consumed.

The research in online journal PLOS One suggests that people tend to have more difficulty recalling how much alcohol they consumed in pubs and bars, compared with drinking at home.

Younger people also seem to have particular difficulty in remembering their consumption of beer and cider accurately, compared to other alcoholic drinks like wine and spirits.

Participants used a smartphone app to record their alcohol consumption in real time. They were later asked to recall how much they thought they had drunk during the preceding day or week. The real–time results were consistently higher than the amount participants reported drinking when they were asked at a later time.

Dr Rebecca Monk from Edge Hill, said: "Previous research suggests that self–reported alcohol consumption is up to 40% lower than the amount of alcohol actually sold. Using Smartphone technology to record drinking in real–time we found that people appear to have great difficulty in accurately recalling what they consumed after the event.

"Overall, our findings suggest that under–reporting is not solely a consequence of memory impairments associated with alcohol consumption."

Dr James Nicholls, of Alcohol Research UK, added: "This research suggests we need to develop more sophisticated ways of measuring alcohol consumption than are currently used. Mobile technologies are not perfect, but they can help us develop a more accurate picture of how people drink on different occasions. Such information would make a significant contribution to our understanding of drinking patterns across society."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Emma Garrity loves Slimming World because…

Before

I was unhappy with how I felt and had tried losing weight many times before but had never stuck to any diet as so many foods were banned and I'd end up cheating.

Mum of 2 Emma says "My friend had joined Slimming World and talked me into going along with her.

"At first I wasn't sure going to a group was for me! I was wrong - everyone was so welcoming and all their help has been fantastic.

"Now I love Slimming World - I can fill up on as many 'free foods' as I want and they are everyday foods like lean meat, eggs, fresh fruit & veg, rice and pasta and potatoes! Knowing you don't need to ever feel hungry, miss out on treats like chocolate and still be able to go out and have a few drinks puts you in control and makes eating guilt free.

"I am now 2&1/2st lighter! There were times that were not so as easy - Christmas and my girly holiday, but the understanding, support and foodie ideas I got from group kept me on Track. I feel so much more confident & happy now and love going to buy new clothes after dropping to a size 10/12. I'm so glad I walked through those doors!"

Emma's Daily Yogurt and fruit
Lunch: *Chicken and bacon salad*
Dinner: *Beef curry and rice*
Snacks: *Fresh fruit and small chocolate bar*

If you would like to be become slimmer and happier just like Emma pop along to a local Slimming World group.

1140627

Students' work to showcase at city theatre

AN exhibition and showcase of student work from Edge Hill University's faculty of arts and sciences, entitled Exclaim!, will take over Liverpool's Everyman Theatre on Tuesday, June 9.

At this biennial event, guests will have the chance to view the most exciting work students have produced during their time on the creative writing, music, dance, film and television, animation, drama, advertising and computing degree programmes.

Drama professor, David Peimer, the univeristy's head of performing arts and director of Exclaim!, said: "We are proud of our students and staff in the faculty of arts and science, the creative home of the show and we want to share their amazing energy and talent with the audience in Liverpool."

The show will feature a wide range of work, including a performance from year three dance students created by renowned choreographer Gary Clarke.

The show will also include aerial performance and a solo performance from recent dance alumnus Malachi Simmons who now works professionally in the dance industry. There will be readings of work from creative writing students, drama performances plus student produced films, animation, music and singing.

Producer, Carol Poole, added: "Exclaim! 2015 celebrates Edge Hill in Liverpool, the first home of the university, and our long–standing links with the city. It also celebrates new partnerships with Tate Liverpool, the Liverpool Culture Company, Liverpool Sound City and LA Productions."

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Arts students sow seeds of creativity

ART and design students at West Lancashire College are busy preparing an exhibition of their work to be held next week.

The theme for this year's show, 'Plant a Seed, Grow your Mind', was the idea of second–year art student Blaze Fraser .

The students' work can be viewed at the West Lancashire College Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale (next to Asda) starting with an evening view on Wednesday, June 10 from 6 to 8pm, open to all. The show is also open from 10am to 4pm on Thursday and Friday, June 11 and 12 and Monday, June 15.

Department leader Gary Owens said: "The show is a great opportunity to see the quality work that students have made and they are very excited about the positive impact their work will have in the local community. It's free and we'd love to welcome as many people as possible."

Some of the students who are showcasing their work

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Entries invited for West Lancs Open Exhibition

TALENTED artists are being invited to share their work with a larger audience by taking part in the popular West Lancashire Open Exhibition 2015.

Amateur and professionals alike have a chance to exhibit at the event at the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk – and take home some of the £1,500 combined prize money on offer!

Entry forms can be collected from the gallery in St Helens Road during opening hours, 10am to 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday or downloaded from the website www.chapelgallery.org.uk.

If selected, work will be exhibited at the gallery from July 11 to September 9.

Applicants must be 18 years old or over and can submit two original pieces of artwork to be viewed by the selection panel. All media entered will be considered, from drawing, painting, printmaking and three–dimensional work to photography, sculpture and textiles.

The first prize is £800, with a second prize of £400 and £200 for third place. Commendations are also awarded along with the prestigious Peoples' Prize voted by visitors to the gallery.

Each entrant can submit two original pieces of artwork. The submission days for handing in work are Friday and Saturday June 26 and 27 from 10am to 4.30pm.

Large–scale two–dimensional and three–dimensional works must be submitted by photograph only. The gallery should be in receipt of these submissions by Friday, June 26. They should also include a completed entry form and a first class stamp.

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A landscape made by man is not always a bad thing

INCREASINGLY it is being borne upon me just what a man–made environment I am living in.

Of course I've always known that, but somehow, perhaps due to an increasing awareness fuelled by the fight to save the green belt, has brought it more sharply into focus.

Oddly enough, it wasn't any recent developments that sparked these thoughts.

On the bus from Maghull to Southport along Liverpool Road North, idly looking out of the window, I realised that a whole stretch of housing in Maghull must have been built as 'ribbon development' in the mid to late '30s.

And that had you travelled down this same road before then there would have been nothing to spoil the view of farm fields (and the Leeds and Liverpool canal).

I know that to many people that was a long time ago – but my second thought was that behind those houses on both sides of the main Southport road, there now lies nothing but hundreds of homes, complete with roads that never existed before.

And I can remember when, as a young journalist, I attended meetings of the then Maghull Parish Council, members were discussing the desirability or otherwise of recommending planning permission for just such development, along with 'infill' single house building here and there.

Now we are talking about vast new housing estates covering valuable grade 'A' farm land in Maghull and Lydiate.

And only a few years ago I naively remarked to a local councillor that we in Maghull had little to fear from large–scale development, because Maghull was already 'full'.

Shows how perspicacious I am doesn't it. Mind you, the councillor I was talking to agreed.

This man–made thing can work the other way too.

If, instead of heading for Southport (or Ormskirk) from my Maghull base, you start off down Sefton Lane towards Crosby or Litherland, you will see woodlands on either side of this busy road.

Now back in the '30s again this would not have been the case. The land there was little but low–lying scrubland which regularly flooded.

And here, the 'culprit', if you can use that word about the founder of a publicly accessible nature area, was man.

Again too, it was the result of what is now an activity which can arouse bitter controversy – landfill.

I think well managed landfill can be a very useful activity, and a darned sight cheaper (apart from the fines of course) than mass recycling using massive diesel powered lorries in the process of delivering our rubbish to a somewhat questionable future.

In this case we have woodland that didn't exist previously. In the case of somewhere on the Wirral side of the Mersey (just a little upstream from Port Sunlight) we have a modern housing development on previously abandoned and decaying docks. Note, not high grade farm land.

So it seems modern ideas can take with one hand but give with the other. I'm not sure the two altogether balance out. Actually I'm pretty sure they don't.

But should you ever drive to or through Maghull, take a gander at what you can see on Liverpool Road North and Sefton Lane and make up your own mind.

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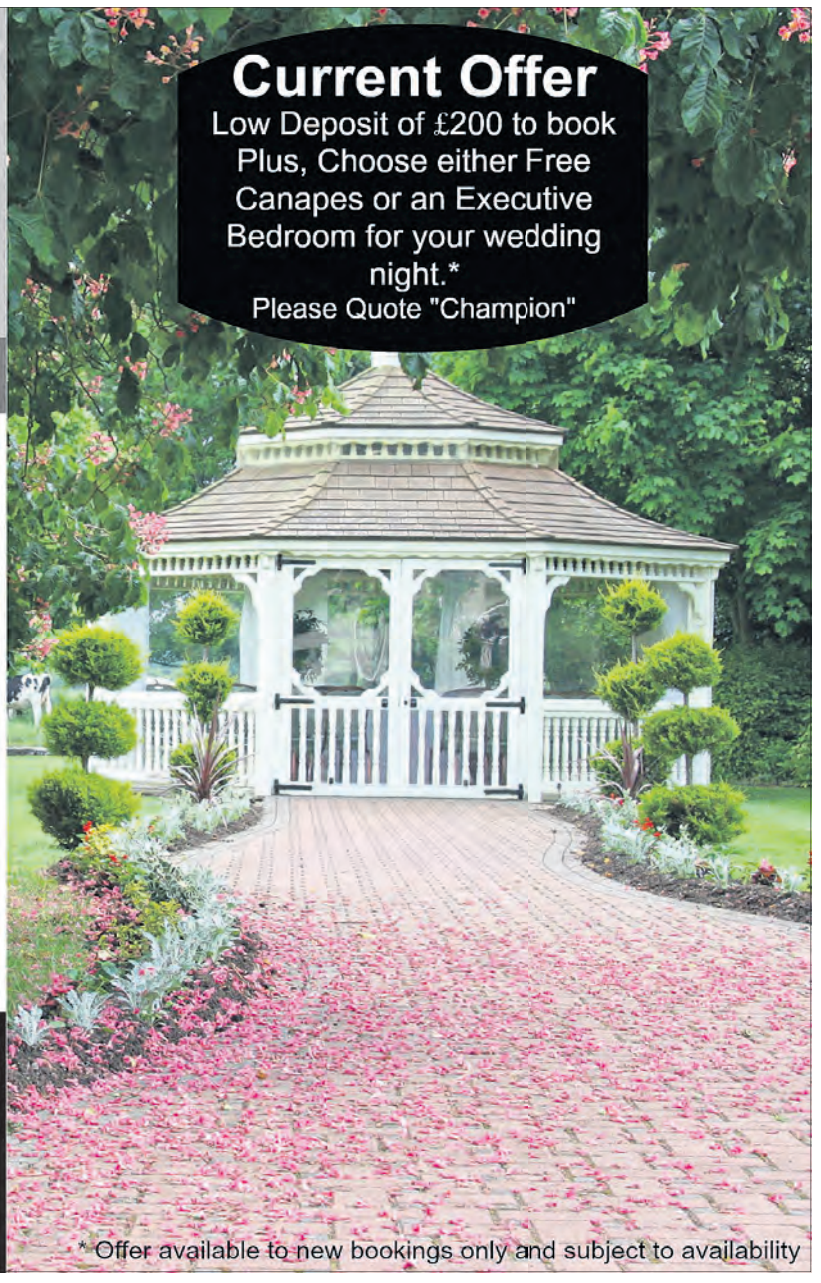
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Care home staff join Dementia Friends

STAFF at a residential care home in Ormskirk have taken part in an information session to become Dementia Friends.

The six employees of Abbey Wood Lodge in County Road attended a free one–hour session run by local Dementia Friends Champion Joe Sherville.

The Dementia Friends initiative was launched in February by national charity the Alzheimer's Society to help members of the public understand what it might be like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action.

Speaking about the Abbey Wood Lodge session Joe Sherville said: "It was fantastic and the feedback from participants was really positive. It gives me such satisfaction to speak to people about dementia and how it affects people's every day lives."

Some of the employees who became Dementia Friends

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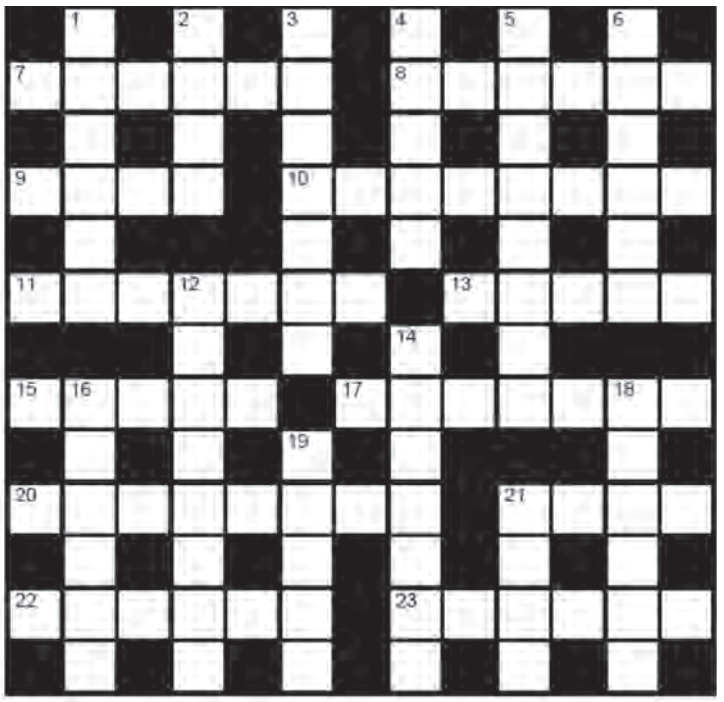

ACROSS

7 On a ship or other vehicle (6)
8 Colour between green and orange in the spectrum (6)
9 Eager (4)
10 Excessively fond of one's wife (8)
11 Relieve (7)
13 Secret political clique (5)
15 To pack tightly (5)
17 At a lower level (7)
20 Waste material (8)
21 Travel around (4)
22 Trying experience (6)
23 Excursion (6)

DOWN

1 Preoccupy (6)
2 Conceited (4)
3 Declare to be true (7)
4 A tough, lightweight, synthetic polymer (5)
5 Final (8)
6 Currency of the Czech republic (6)
12 Rolled out (8)
14 Retirement income (7)
16 Hypothesis (6)
18 Pupil who skips school (6)
19 Not fresh (5)
21 Bye-bye (2-2)

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Accost. 8 Report. 9 Debt. 10 Laxative. 11 Harrier. 13 Balsa. 15 E-mail. 16 Shimmer. 18 Shinbone. 19 Lots. 21 Biased. 22. Orgies.

Down: 1 Acre. 2 Contortionist. 3 Atelier. 4 Proxy. 5 Ophthalmology. 6 Crevasse. 12 Armchair. 14 Phaeton. 17 Gouda. 20 Trey.

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Police chiefs pay tribute to role of volunteers

Report by **Henry James**

A WEEK of activities have been organised by Lancashire Police to mark National Volunteers' Week (June 1 to 7).

The annual event celebrates the contribution made by millions of volunteers across the UK, showcasing the different roles on offer and featuring taster sessions, team challenges, volunteer recruitment campaigns and awards ceremonies.

Through Citizen in Policing, Lancashire Police currently has more than 300 volunteers working either in the local community, in the stations or at headquarters.

Volunteering roles range from providing mentoring support to vulnerable individuals and families, to community road watch schemes, health and wellbeing administrators, viewing CCTV footage, supporting police at community events and getting involved with specific departments such as CSI or Early Action.

Assistant chief constable, Mark Bates, said: "Volunteers are a vital and integral part of our organisation. Not only do we have the special constables and cadets but our volunteers provide their specialist skills in areas such as the elderly and vulnerable.

"The benefits to us using volunteers are three–fold. We can build and increase capacity and resilience through volunteers, build volunteering links within specialist departments and the use of specialist volunteers and add value to the communities."

And the county's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, added: "Volunteers are an absolutely vital part of Lancashire Police – they help make the constabulary the outstanding force it is.

"One of my key priorities as police and crime commissioner is to defend frontline policing and volunteers help us achieve this by working alongside officers and police staff.

"I would like to personally thank all our volunteers for the effort, dedication and time they offer to Lancashire Police. The role they play is continuing to grow in importance across Lancashire and their efforts will continue to be valued."

During the week, Lancashire Police will be highlighting the work the volunteers do, as well as organising three thank–you events for existing volunteers today (Wednesday, June 3) in Garstang, Preston and Blackburn.

Lancashire Constabulary are also holding two recruitment events for Specials on Monday, June 8 from 7 to 8pm at the Coppice Theatre in Accrington and on Tuesday, June 9 from 7 to 8pm at at Blackpool & The Fylde College.

Springfield Court residents are treated to a performance by the Singing Our Socks Off choir **Code NA**

Choir's care home concert

CARE home residents enjoyed a visit with a difference when members of a popular community choir popped in to give a special peformance.

The Liverpool–based Sing Our Socks off group, which includes singers of all ages and experience, entertained residents of the Springfield Court Nursing Home in Springfield Road, Aughton, performing a variety of numbers, from show tunes to modern pop and songs from around the world.

School gymnasts book final spot

SPORTY youngsters from a Skelmersdale school have clinched their place in the finals of a prestigious county–wide event.

Young gymnasts from Woodland Community Primary School in Heathgate will compete in the SPAR Lancashire School Games at Stanley Park, Blackpool on June 30 after defeating six other schools to represent West Lancs .

The team excelled in body management, floor and vault routines to secure top spot and there was a stand–out solo performance by Daniela Putnina who took the individual silver medal.

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History group stages special event in memory of Mona

A SPECIAL day of remembrance event is to be staged in honour of a respected local historian who passed away last year.

The Local History Federation Lancashire will hold the Remembering Mona day school at Burscough Wharf Arts Centre, Liverpool Road North on Saturday, June 27.

Dr Mona Duggan was a well–respected teacher, lecturer, local historian and author from Haskayne who passed away in January 2014.

The event will run from 9.30am to 4.15pm and will feature talks on subjects including Mona Duggan's work and Lathom's First World War horses.

Cost is £13 (including buffet lunch) or £8 (day school only). To reserve a place call 01772 865347 or email zoe.lawson@talktalk.net.

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Amy plays an ace for children's charity

AN Ormskirk mum played an ace for charity when she hosted a fundraising event as part of a national inititiatve.

Amy Ainscough held a coffee morning at her home for 30 local mums and their toddlers as part of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children charity's Really Big Board Game Days project which ran throughout May.

The idea behind the promotion was for families and friends to get together to take part in board games with a suggested donation of £5 per person going to the NSPCC.

Amy's event, complete with cakes, sandwiches and hot and cold drink, raised more than £200 for the children's charity.

She said: "There were more families who wanted to come but unfortunately chicken pox and a tummy bug were going around.

"For the adults, there was Monopoly, Connect 4, Operation, Life, Risk, and Battleships, and we had Guess Who, Candy Land, dominoes and Chutes and Ladders for the kids, plus a life–size plastic chess set!

"It was brilliant to be able to raise awareness of the vital work that the NSPCC does."

Pupils make their mark in Biathlon

FIVE sporty pupils of a West Lancs school made their mark when they represented the North West in the British School's Biathlon Championships held at the Olympic Park in London.

The two–part challenge saw the youngsters, from Rufford CE Primary School, compete in a 50–metre swim and an 800–metre run.

Ella Falkingham ranked first in the under–10 girls category for the North West with a swim time of 37.6 seconds and a run time of 3 minutes 29 seconds, while Olivia Borland ranked second in the under–11 girls section with a swim time of 35.4 seconds and a run time of 3 minutes 16 seconds.

Meanwhile, three boys who competed in the under–12 boys category also claimed ranking positions .

William Whittingham came second with a swim time of 32 seconds and a run time of 2 min 56 seconds; Edward Whittingham was third (32 seconds & 2m 56) and Luke Falkingham came fourth (35 seconds & 3m 4).

Teacher and PE co–ordinator Samantha Shirley told the Champion: "All of the children performed excellently."

Memories of Wales in the 80s wanted

IF you lived in Wales during the 1980s a film–making company would like to hear from you.

Documentary makers Testimony Films are currently working on a new series for BBC Cymru Wales about life in the country during the 1980s and are keen to contact people in West Lancashire who lived there during that decade.

Pete Vance from Testimony Films said: "From the effects of the miners' strike and vast unemployment to changes in gender roles, popular culture and the rise of tourism, it was a decade of great upheaval for Welsh people and residents throughout the country."

If you or someone you know would like to share their memories with Testimony Films, contact Pete Vance on 0117 925 8589, email pete.vance@testimonyfilms.com, or write to 12 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5RH.

Youngsters 'hop to it'...

MEMBERS of uniformed organisations at a local church 'hopped to it' to raise funds for a worthy cause.

Guide, Brownie, Rainbow, Scout, Cubs and Beaver groups at Christ Church, Aughton held their own sponsored 'Hops for Your Heart' event to raise money for a defibrillator at their Long Lane base.

A spokeswoman for Ormskirk & Skelmersdale Girlguiding division said: "At first we aimed to raise funds for a defibrillator to be kept within the Scout and Guide HQ but we decided to aim for a machine to be housed externally. It now means that a defibrillator is available for the community 24/7 should one be required."

Some of the Guides and Cubs with the defibrillator

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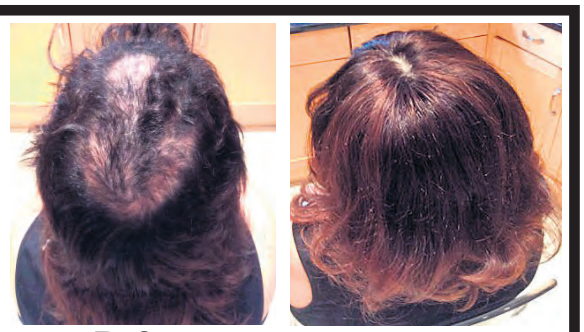

Before After

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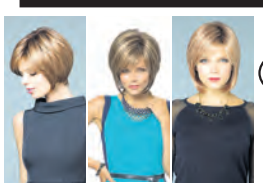

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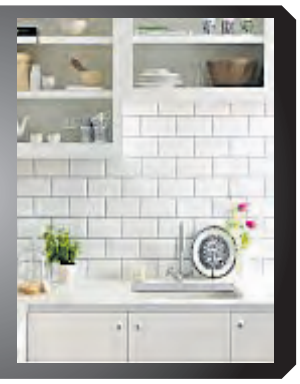

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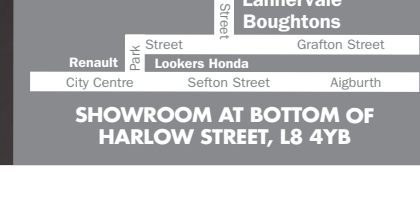

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Diane Finch, sales and marketing director of Persimmon Homes Lancashire, said: "Because of the mill's local significance we expected a lot of interest in the properties when we opened the show apartment in February.

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Diane added: "Now is a great time to move and our sales advisors are on hand to help people through the whole process and give advice on schemes such as the Government-backed Help to Buy, Home Change and Part-exchange*."

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Society to present Piano Festival to mark Midsummer

Report by **Henry James**

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold is presenting a Piano Festival of concerts and film themed around pianists and piano music on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 20 and June 21 to mark the Midsummer.

The event is supported by Lancashire County Council and is an extension of Douglas Music's 2014–15 Live Music at the weekend concerts which have been sell–outs across the season.

Three international pianists will be appearing in Parbold Village Hall for the very first time.

Argentinian pianist Nelson Goerner, praised for his meticulous and marvellous musicianship, will be flying in from Switzerland.

On Saturday, June 20 at 7.45 pm, Nelson will play some of the most loved, accessible and exciting works for piano, including two of Frederic Chopin's Ballades and some of Claude Debussy's evocative musical pictures.

On Midsummer Eve, Sunday, June 21 at 7.45 pm, the Piano Festival will conclude with the glamorous, Parisian partnership of Ami and Pascal Rogé, praised for their "beautiful, seductive, consummate playing" Télérama 2013.

For several years, Pascal, with his partner in life and in music Ami Rogé, has travelled the world playing recitals for four–hands.

They will perform an exhilarating, evocative programme. Pascal Rogé is one of the great interpreters of French piano music – his name is simply synonymous with the best playing of French repertoire in the world today.

In the first part of the evening he will play works by Eric Satie and Maurice Ravel that conjure that relaxed sophistication of French music, made familiar by film–makers.

In the second half, Ami and Pascal will perform works originally written for 'four hands': Schubert's Fantasie – one of his greatest and most original compositions; Brahms's Hungarian Dances and Dvorak's Slavonic Dances which brought their composers fame.

In addition on both Saturday and Sunday there are matinée events.

On Saturday afternoon at 3pm, the three outstanding and award–winning soloists of The Pomegranate Piano Trio, with an international reputation for very fine performances, will be playing a well–loved piece by Beethoven, written shortly after his Sixth symphony and featuring melodies from his Second.

Ami and Pascal Rogé **Code NA**

They will also play Rachmaninov's homage to his mentor, Tchaikovsky (Elegiaque) and Schubert's famous and tuneful Trio that has featured in films, including Stanley Kubrick's Barry Lyndon and Tony Scott's Crimson Tide. This is a "Pay what you will on the door concert" but reservations are required.

On Sunday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. there will be a screening of The Pianist, the multi–award winning film. It tells the true story of pianist, Wladyslaw Szpilman, played by Academy Award Winner, Adrien Brody. Reservation required.

The weekend Festival will open with a celebratory Young Musicians Showcase concert on Friday, June 19 at 7.45p.m.

Following 2014's inaugural concert, Douglas Music has offered eight young musicians – singers, instrumental soloists, pianists from across the North West of England – the opportunity to perform in a professional and public concert setting. The invitation has attracted young musical talent from across the North West – from Warrington and Wigan to Preston and Liverpool to Manchester. Details of the performers will follow in a separate release.

For more information call 01257 498452.

The children from Chris Wright's School of Dance and Drama appearing in the production Code NA

Show aiming to give audiences time of life

A SHOW at Southport Theatre is aiming to give audiences the time of their life.

AN Evening of Dirty Dancing: The Tribute Show is returning to the Southport Theatre for a second year running on Friday, June 12 and this time it will feature performers from Chris Wright's School of Dance and Drama in Southport.

Embarking on it's 5th Anniversary tour, the show is a fully choreographed, highly interactive celebration of the music from the iconic movie.

Musical theatre stalwart Julian Essex–Spurrier will lead the production having played numerous iconic leading roles including Tony Manero in Saturday Night Fever, Rocky in The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Riff in West Side Story and Rusty in Starlight Express.

He's joined by Aimie Atkinson who was the winner of the BBC Radio 2 Voice of Musical Theatre and returns to the production for a third season having recently played the leading role of Penny in Carnaby Street The Musical and Chloe in the Take That musical, Never Forget.

An Evening of Dirty Dancing: The Tribute Show is directed by Paul Spicer with choreography by Leanne Harwood and pays homage to the greatest movie soundtrack of all time.

The night will include the songs: Big Girls Don't Cry, Hey Baby, Wipeout, Do You Love Me, Hungry Eyes and the Oscar–winning (I've Had) The Time of My Life.

Paul Spicer said: "We're thrilled the students can join us for this our second visit to Southport.

"We think it's really important to give local talent a platform and I know they'll have an invaluable experience working with our cast and creative team."

Chance to hear popular classics

THE Northern Chamber Orchestra (NCO), Springs into The Four Seasons with popular classics at The Atkinson, Southport, on Saturday, June 13.

The NCO, directed by Nicholas Ward, will be giving its first–ever concert at The Atkinson Studio at 7.30pm.

The NCO is regarded as one of the country's top, professional chamber orchestras. While it regularly performs in Cheshire and presents an annual season in Warrington and Halton, this is the first time that audiences local to Southport will have the chance to see the orchestra in action at a nearby venue.

The Spring into The Four Seasons concert presents a sparkling mix of well–known, popular classics, such as Vivaldi The Four Seasons and Jeremiah Clarke Trumpet Voluntary, along with works by Mozart.

Latest competition winners announced

THE following people won a pair of tickets to see Dirty Rotten Scoundrels at Manchester's Opera House: Lee Forshaw from Skelmersdale, Patrick White from Burscough, Tony Feehan from Southport, Pat Thompson from Crosby, Alan Carr from Haskayne.

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5 COATS size 14, 14, 16, 16, R, good con £10 the lot 07933 043429

BEAVERS UNIFORM Sweatshirt and t–shirt both size 30 inches plus cap £12 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

BOYS BUNDLE All Next itemsaged 9,10 and 11.includes jacket, hoodies, trousers and t–shirts.28 items altogether. £ 25 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

BROCADE DRESS LENGTHS three brocade ladies dress lengths for sale.red/black red/silver £10 each 01704 544656

BURBERRY CASHMERE SCARF Soft 100% cashmere scarf. Classic Nova Check design. Purchased from Burberrry and hardly worn. 50 inches long without tassels and 53inches long with. 8.25inches wide. Excellent condition. Maghull, no text or withheld numbers £38 07887954364

CLARKS GOLD COLOURED casual shoes, ladies size 6, brand new still in box £9 01704 579119

CLASSIC LADIES lined jacket, suitable for summer, oatmeal colour, size 14 brand new £20 o.n.o. 01704 579119

CLOTHING

CUBS UNIFORM Sweatshirt size 34 inch t–shirt size 32 inches. £12 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

DEBENHAMS COLLECTION COAT New ladies wool grey long coat sz 10 g8 for winter no txts £20 07806727402

FIORELLI HANDBAG B'new with double handles g8 style was £45 no txts £15 07806727402

FOOTBALL SHIRTS england umbro licenced football shirt red large, england admiral hurst no 10 football shirt red large £15.00 each 07790791733

GIRLS CLOTHES 12–24months. Jackets, casual outfits, Xmas wear, shoes and slippers. Very good condition. From a non smoking home. £15 07815769264

GIRLS CLOTHES 3–4 years. Casual outfits, summer dresses, jacket, autumn/winter dress and jumper. Very good condition. From a non smoking home. £15 07815769264

GIRLS DRESSES 18–24 months. Four very smart summer, bright and varied dresses. Very good condition. From a non smoking home. £10 07815769264

GIRLS PINK ALLSTAR converse high top, size 11.5, only worn 3 times so vgc £15. Pink sub + amp 10' 800w fli – perfect for girl racer £50. Kids ice cream maker, only used once £5 07539 569313

JOANNA HOPE DRESS Fully lined, round neck, capped sleeve, elasticated waist at the back, crossover skirt. Pinks, greens, creams. For any occasion. Brand new with all labels. Size 16. £20.00 0151 526 0300

LADIES COURT SHOES beige leather size 6, unworn £5. Le cruecet pans orange 2x8', 1x6' ex cond £35 01704 570374

LADIES DUNE BOOTS Brown real Lthr knee length sz 3 side zip like new in box was £85 no txts £20 07806727402

LADIES SMART brown trouser suit edge stitched, never worn, size 16 £20 0151 922 0634

MENS CANVAS BOAT SHOES size 8, brand new, very handsome with white laces £12 o.n.o. 0151 928 7583

MISSONI SILK SCARF Multicolored graphic design pattern containing brown, orange & green colours. 35' square. Silk dry clean. Top quality item, very tasteful and as good as new. Photos available via email £40 07815769264

MODA PELE SHOES B'new boxed ladies high heel shoes sz 3 g8 style was £75 no txts £25 07806727402

NEW LADIES CLOTHES 20 assorted items, including tops, cardigans, dresser's shoes and handbags. All new and good makes, various prices up to £25.00 Starting at:– £4.00 07530562650

NIKE HIGHTOPS Blue suede NIKE hightops. Size 6. Excellent condition. £4 01695571790

NIKE HIGHTOPS Blue leather/suede NIKE hightops. Size 6. Hardly worn. £4 01695571790

TOMMY HILFIGER JEANS Mens dark blue Tommy Hilfiger 'Ryder' jeans. Waist 34 Leg 30. Straight leg with a regular fit. 5 pockets and a button fly. With traditional patch back pockets. This denim is made from 100% cotton £30 07815769264

VARIOUS LADIES coats, jumpers, waistcoats, stylish good quality, size 14–16, from £3 each 01704 220989

VINTAGE FOOTBALL SHIRTS 2000–2002 everton one to one home and away football shirts blue/white, yellow/blue extra large £15.00 each 07790791733

COMPUTING

CANNON SCANNER silver excellent condition May deliver £18.00 o.n.o. 01515263851

COMPUTER DESK and folding chair £10 0151 5269145

COMPUTING

ETHERNET CABLE New 30 metre coil of Duron brand white Cat 6a high speed Ethernet cable, with gold plated snagless connectors. £15.00 01704 546978

EXECUTIVE OFFICE CHAIR leather faced, gas damped, swivel base, hardly used, vgc £30 0151 931 5555

FLAT SCREEN MONITOR dell, 15', slight fault but works well £15 01704 875455

LAPTOPS Dell windows 7 and HP Vista. good working order. £40 o.n.o. Burscough 01704893742

PRINTER SCANNER COPIER HP Photosmart C6180 AIO. Ex cond, full working order. All cables etc £15 o.n.o. 01704227861

XBOX 360 white xbox 360 console all leads fully working, 1 wireless handset,20gb memory.can be seen working. £35.00 07761465878/01704534529

DIY

USED TIMBER 200ft 3 x 2. Some long lengths. £40 01695 571291

TRAILER 5x3. VGC £140 01695 571291

4.5 SQM TILES B&Q mineral floor tiles, 330x330x8mm, colour charcoal & adhesive £20 01695 728111

400 PLUS COMMON BRICK immac con, will separate 40p each. Black attracts double sink with mixer tap £50. Modern glass cooker hood £30 07800 632 037

ATCO PETROL MOWER ATCO petrol mower 14 inch in good working condition, starts great £100 01704 573226

BLACK & DECKER electric chainsaw, good condition, can show working £40 Southport 214498

CHIMNEY rotating cowl for chimney pot £60 01695 421933

DECKING or staircase spindle (used) £20p each 01695 422171

DEWALT SITE RADIO charges all dewalt drill batteries, 2 power outlets £65 0151 527 2392

ENGINEERS SQUARE by Roebuck, 6' blade code 233 conforms BS 939 grade B, manufactured to close tolerances in high grade steel, brand new sealed in box £10 01704 874084

FLEXIBLE TAP/PIPE CONNECTORS Two new and unused compression fitting flexible tap or pipe connectors for 15mm copper pipe, 300mm (12 inches) long. £8.00 01704 546978

HITACHI 2565v2 jigsaw 65mm electronic 110 volts £25 0151 525 3269

LADDERS Quality aluminium double 15 absolute bargain £60.00 01704 578602

LETTER STAMP SET Hardened steel letter and number set. 27 Letters and 9 numbers. 4mm high characters. New in case. £10.00 01704 546978

LOUVERED CUPBOARD DOORS. Two louvered cupboard doors each 60cms wide by 45cms tall. (Approx 2 feet by 1 foot 6 inches). £10.00 01704 546978

MALAYSIAN MARINE PLYWOOD 2 sheets of Malaysian Marine Plywood. each sheet 8' x 4' x 12mm. £60 01704 840023

METAL PETROL CAN Red metal petrol can in good condition £5 01704 573226

MIRROR 27'W x 37'L deep surround 5' as new £40 01695 421933

MULTIPURPOSE COMBINATION LADDER ALUMINIUM multi–purpose combination ladder. NEW. Telescopic. 4x4 rung. closed 1.32m. Extended 4.19m. Similar to Little Giant. NEW. £60 01704840023

NEW CAR/VAN TYRE Brand new and unused 165x80x13 tyre on steel rim. Can be refitted to any other 13 inch wheel rim. £20.00 01704 546978

DIY

OLD LEADED GLASS Genuine, diamond pattern leaded clear glass, two pieces 16 inches wide x 25 inches tall. £20.00 01704 546978

PETROL MOWER Qualcast/Suffolk punch petrol mower wanted. Cash paid £o 01704 573226

TABLE SAW 10" 1500 watt table saw. Cast aluminium table with rip fence, blade guard, dust extraction, router mount in table. Not working. £25.00 01704 546978

TRAILER FOR sale. Trailer. Single axle. Galvanised chassis. Brakes. 388x196cm £80 07752984416

WELLIES SIZE 10 Comfortable turnover top, green farmers wellies. thick memory foam inner sole, with removable washable fleece inner lining. £5.00 0151 526 0300

WHITE MOULDED DOOR White 6 panel moulded interior door, metric sizes,2003mm x 82 mm x 40mm. Complete woth handles and latch£10, buyer collects £ o.n.o. 01519204691

WORKTOP off cut, mottled stoe 107cm L x 60cm W x 4cm D £10 01695 421933

HOUSE AND HOME

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DINING TABLE Multiyork cherry wood dining table, 3 size options with 6 balloon back chairs. Excellent condition. Other matching items available. £499 01704630692

ROUND DROP LEAF table in beautiful mahogany finish plus 4 chairs £60. 4 high back kitchen stools in beech and matching cream seats. 2 boxed, 2 built £35 01695 574827

HOUSE AND HOME

WANTED 30ft Wrought Iron Railings. 12–18' high. Also wanted dexion shelving or similar for shed. Bedroom Chair, boudoir style wanted. £Wanted 07546 254448

DINING TABLE with six chairs. Dark wood, extends to seat eight people. £125.00 01515264361

ROYAL ALBERT TEAPOT. Telephone table, 1 drawer, covered in ruby velvet £ offers 01704 840975

SIDE TABLE Oak with shelf and draw. £50 01704630692

2 BEECH LAMP TABLES Cost £99 each q'sale matching dining table aft 20th June £45 £29 07806727402

2 LOVELY WALTHAM glass bowls, new white, tulips design £10. 2 white TV dinner tables, adjustable, foldable, ex con £8 0151 476 7482

4 FT DOUBLE BED £60. 3 ft single bed £35 07751 119687

4 VINTAGE CHAIRS dining, dark wood, solid wooden seats, spindle backs, possibly 100yrs old £40 01695 728111

8 FT HEADBOARD to fit kingsize or double bed with built on bedside tables, in pink velour, good con £20. Pine double wardrobe, must collect £40 07570 586855

ANTIQUE FIREPLACE ANTIQUE. Victoria, edardian marblised fireplace height 117x133cm £300 07752984416

ARMCHAIR Winged, beige/raspberry, as new £50. Dining table 39' dia round, drop leaf, excellent condition £20 0151 928 6928

ARMCHAIR faux leather with wooden sides and handrests, sturdy, comfortable, cream–coloured. £25.00 o.n.o. 01704232953

AUSTIN SUITE dressing table £25 ono. folding wheelchair, used twice £55 ono. Round pine table with 4 chairs, used cond £60 o.n.o. 01704 228749

BAR STOOLS 2 chrome&black seat stools vgc. £15. 0151526 0265

BATHROOM SET electric shower, shower enclosure and tray, pedestal, basin, toilet, good condition £offers 07752 575025

BED 3/4 SIZE Divan bed, 2 drawers, as new, quality item with mattress in perfect condition – cost £600 when new. Hardly used! £235 01704 211622

BEDDING quick sale, all gc. Dorma k/size reversible duvet, p/cases and matching curtains £20. Also Dunelm cream k/size duvet, p/cases and curtains £15 01704 579119

BEDROOM FITMENT white, can be corner unit or straight mirror front, good cond, buyer collects £50 0151 944 2124

BEDROOM FURNITURE Nice bedroom furniture, including two large wardrobes one with double hanging space and one with top shelf, also a five draw chest and a three draw chest. All white in colour with grey trim. £595.00 07530562650

BEKO DISHWASHER 10 place slimline in white, immaculate condition, complete with hose, funnel, instructions, it is like new, only selling as changed colour scheme. £85.00 no offers. 0151 378 3627

BELLINI CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN stainless steel, in good working order. £15 07976556270

BLACK FABRIC SOFA wood and leather decorative trims, 2 x matching scatter cushions £90 o.n.o. 0151 531 1264 eve

BLACK SWIVEL CHAIR suitable for kitchen £25. wedding dress, beige size 18 £25. Bridesmaids dress size 18 £20 07581 027658

Ex Motability Scooters SALE

We are contracted to clear a massive amount of Ex 'Motability' Luxury 8mph Scooters.

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BLIND RUCHERED ROMAN cream linen brand new still boxed with fitments size 4feet wide May deliver £15.00 o.n.o. 01515263851

BOOK CASE beech wood effect 180 x 42 x 29cm, ex con, comes flat pack, easy assembly £10 07825 633 473

BOSCH WASHING MACHINE Offers MAHOGANY stag sideboard offers CANE conservatory suite 2 seater and 2 single chairs £OFFERS 07927 969927

BOSCH WASHING MACHINE Classic model, quiet, vgc, white 1200 express £85 0151 525 8252

BRASS/LIGHT CEILING FAN New/unused decorative 3 light ceiling fan. Features reversible blades with oak on one side and oak rattan on the other (drop–46cm, diameter–105cm). Requires 3xSES eco halogen bulbs–max standard bulb wattage 30W. £30 o.n.o. 01704565700

BUNK BEDS DARK pine, very good condition, really solid with no creaking and can be split into 2 singles £120 o.n.o. 01704225226

CANVAS DECK CHAIR VGC Blue & white striped canvas deck chair with arms. £10 07954285404

CARAVAN AWNING full derema awning size (13) 975x250cm steel poles colour green and cream with skirt and weel cover plus curtains and storm straps side and front panels can be unzipped £150 o.n.o. 01704878856

CARD TABLE / TROLLEY Oak, very nice vintage piece, spindle legs, opens out, felt top. £60 01704 211622

CHEST FREEZER white zanussi chest freezer perfect working order £50.00 07450 373289

COFFEE TABLE oval mahogany, 29' at widest, perfect cond £40 01704 870843

COFFEE TABLE modern, oblong, brass, glass £25. Car radio CD player, compact disc, tuner as new, boxed £30 07715 047564

COMPUTER DESK Malibu light oak computer desk with shelves and 3 drawers, plus extra 3 drawer pack. £15 o.n.o. 01695573969

COMPUTER WORKSTATION Functional, sturdycomputer workstation, silver grey. H760 W640 D610. Sliding keyboard and printer shelves. Side storage area Suitable for computer or game consul. Good condition £30 o.n.o. 01695 570268

CONSERVATORY 2 cane chairs nice fabric, matching glass top table, good clean condition £40.00 01704 578602

CONSERVATORY GARDEN TROLLEY J'Lewis L'new cream resin food drinks trolley on wheels cost £99 no offers no txts £25 07806727402

CONSERVATORY SUITE black metal 4 piece, stone coloured cushion, pads and black glass metal coffee table £85 o.n.o. 01704 228749

CORIAN WORK TOPS cream sink incorporated 2100 x 900mm sink and 2000 x 1400mm hob cut out piece £100 for both 07548 647407

CREAM ROUND DINING TABLE with 4 chairs £80 o.n.o. 01704 211325

CUT GLASS TUMBLERS Set of 6 very pretty small cut glass tumblers. Southport £15 07801 493946

DIGITAL CAMERA SOFTCASE Quality Lowepro compact camera case, well padded case with zip closure and reinforced protection at the base. £10.00 01704 546978

DINING CHAIRS 2 Mahogany Carver Dining Chairs with beige covers £20 01704630798

DINING TABLE and bench set, table apron 40x23 inch, gc £30 o.n.o. 07929 027090

DINING TABLE 4 chairs and sideboard £150. 3 seater settee and 2 chairs £190 07751 119687

DINING TABLE DROP–LEAF Seats 4, folds down slim, 4' x 2'6' when open, dark wood, good condition. £20 01704 211622

DISNEY Winnie the Pooh telephone, still in box, features last number redial, hi low switch £20 07933 043429

DOOR HANDLES 4 pairs antique brass effect internal door handles excellent condition £37.50 07921815283

DORMA QUILTED THROW Luxury quilted throw in rich cream with pale cream jacquard design, suit kingsize or double in original packing used in spare room ex cond £25.00 01704 539039

DOUBLE BED with mattress. h/board 2 years old, vgc £75. Hoover Infinity 9kg Dynamic paid £349.99, 4 months old sell for £249 07594 604523

DOUBLE BED FRAME Ash coloured wood good condition. £45 o.n.o. 01704 874380

DOUBLE OTTOMAN BED Black faux leather bed. In very good condition, headboard included £50 07523013608

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HOUSE AND HOME

DOUBLE CYCLE RACK Thule easy fold 931 Towbar mounted bike rack with loading ramp, cost over £550 only used a couple of times, like new, grab a bargain £300 o.n.o. 01704539324

ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE BED MiBed Emily 1200 (double) 5 part motorised adjustable frame with 1200ct pocket sprung unit. Excellent condition. £250 Ring 01704872242 after 2.00p.m

ELECTROLUX HOOVER Hardly used upright hoover 1600 watts in good condition, with spare bags, five settings, genuine reason for sale £45 07530562650

EXECUTIVE OFFICE CHAIR Leather look executive office chair, black. Adjustable with stylish arms and 5 star base. Suitable for study or computer workstation. Good condition £20 o.n.o. 01695 570268

EXECUTIVE TYPE CHAIR full swivel, adjustable height, on castors, vgc £12 01695 575537

EXTERNAL WALL LIGHT Outdoor steel latern style wall light. IP44 rated. 230V 11 W max bulb with PIR. Modern design. Never used. In original box. Cost £87 from Wickes. Maghull area. No text or withheld numbers. £30 07887954364

FLOATING SHELVES black gloss floating shelves from homebase in two sizes 5 large and two medium length £37.50 07921815283

G PLAN DINING table round extending and 4 chairs £150 ono. White Adams fire surround, marble hearth and inset £150 ono. 2 clothes airers £12 o.n.o. 0151 526 4126

GAS COOKER goes into a built in upright unit, with sepperate gas hob. £40 Southport 214498

GEORGE FOREMAN lean mean grilling machine, hardly used £15 01695 575773

GLASS TOP DINING table, clear glass top,35'x35'x30' high black ornate metal frame, with 4 black metal chairs, floral black/white cushioned seats.in southport £20 07809255966

GOLD FOUR SEATER SOFA Comfortable rich gold four seater sofa, measurements to nearest inch, D84cm/2ft8', H86cm/2ft10', L2m62cm/8ft7'.Condition good, buyer collects £45 o.n.o. 01695573147

HALOGEN OVEN delta kitchen oven, roast, bakes, grill, steam, reheat, defrost, all–in–one £10 o.n.o. 01695 574 138

HANGING LAMPSHADES Pair of matching 2 tier hanging lampshades in duck egg blue colour. The fabric is suede effect. Very good condition. £12 pair 01704 560270

HEADBOARD Single pink headboard as new £10 01695733995

HEADBOARD Shell shaped pink headboardAs new £10 01695733995

HIFI / DRINKS CABINET Dark wood, traditional design, 33' tall x 18' deep x 22' wide. Good condition £30 01704 211622

HND BLENDER Essentials hand blender in white/grey boxed new and never used bargain £3 01704220356

HOOVER DRYER 4 mnth old, £249. Microwave cookware £20. Mother care cots £20, 4ft bed with mattress and headboard, very clean £75 07594 604523

HOSTESS TROLLEY 'Ecko Hostess Royal' complete with bowls and lids, ex con, fully working £60 07985 050276

HOTPOINT washing machine Aquarius 7kg, gwo £55 o.n.o. 0151 284 2941

HOTPOINT LARDER FRIDGE like new, good condition £70 01695 51440

IKEA 2 SEATER brown leather sofa and matching armchair, ex con £170 01704 873713

IKEA BEDSIDE TABLES Two matching bedside /occasional black metal Ikea Noresund round tables in good overall condition. £20 Pair 01704 560270

IKEA TV UNIT a black ikea tv and media unit approx 6ft 8 7ft excellent condition £25.00 07921815283

INDESIT FREEZER 3 drawers, gwo £45 07790 657596

INTERNAL DOORS Two 33inch doors, never fitted, buyer collects. £free Burscough 01704893742

KENWOOD FOOD PROCESSOR mixer attachments, chrome, used twice, mint con £55. Stainless steel stock pot, holds 10 pints, good quality £25 07986 737146

KENWOOD MIXER plus coffee grinder and food mincer, as new £70 0151 520 2333 /07732 398733

KING SIZE BED solid frame, reclaimed oak, slatted base, heavy beautiful bed £90 01695 728111

KING SIZE HEADBOARD Kingside bed headboard, all chrome/silver coloured with beautiful crystal finials lovely condition £100 o.n.o. 01704539324

LADIES VANITY CASE Green canvas case from Gullivers. 12.5' wide, 8.5' high, 8.5'deep. Has a carry handle and adjustable shoulder strap. Roomy interior with mirror and storage pouch. Clean and in excellent condition. £10 07887954364

LEATHER SOFA Sofa is 2seater in good condition, buyer to remove, sofa is positioned on ground floor. £40.00 Tel 07969984162

LEATHER SUITE A two piece leather suite in excellent condition. One chair and 3 seater settee. £200 07773223176

LIGHT WOOD FIRE–SURROUND with marble plinth and back as new £100 07860 771377

LINDAM AUTO–CLOSE BABY–SAFETY–GATE New/unused Lindam Auto Close Baby Safety Gate with Extra Wide Doorway (fits openings of 75cm to 89cm – 7 cm extension included, pressure fitting, does not require drilling). Plus 14cm Universal Extension and Staircase Fixing Kit Pack of 2. £45 01704565700

LLADRO CLOWNS 3 in excellent condition £99 for all 3 01704 870843

LOW ENTERTAINMENT UNIT dark wood rope finish leaded doors £35. Small juicer £3. New 12/14 skiing type jacket, pink/grey £10 0151 476 4489

MAGNIFIER plus light, fits to shelf or table £25. Breakfast stool, white/ chrome, air raise, new £15 01704 260276

MAHOGANY Oval dining table double pedestal 66' extending to 82'. 4 dining chairs matching corner unit for glasses all in good condition £80.00 01704 578602

MAHOGANY extending dining table and 6 matching chairs, vgc, quick sale £100 0787 6844 229

MAHOGANY DRESSER CABINET Rufford Area. Inc drinks cabinet & lights. Excellent condition £75.00 07807881204

MAHOGONY FIREPLACE with solid marble hearth and marble back, buy them both and get a free electric fire with removable coals. £80 Southport 214498

MARPLE HEARTH PLINTH Marple hearth plinth40inch x 15inch £25 01704550472

MICROWAVE OVEN £20. Occasional unit £25. Half moon small hall table £20. 4 drawer small wooden bedroom chair, pink £20 07751 119687

MIELE VACUUM CLEANER white pearl, cylinder vacuum cleaner in good working order. £25 07976556270

MINI ELECTRIC OVEN by cookworks, unused gift £45 07950 340080

MINI OVEN AND HOB Electric mini oven and 2 ring hob. Never been used original wrapping on grill pan with instruction book. Ideal for caravan or flat. £40.00 01704567554

MINK COLOURED CURTAINS 90x90, lined, draylon tape tops, ex cond £20. Blue mountain pottery, all ex cond, bambi, cat, owl, ducks £5 per item 0151 944 2124

MIRROR SOUTHERN COMFORT Southern Comfort Mirror. Frame size is 19 inches wide x 24 inches high. Screen printed on glass. Generally very good condition. £35 o.n.o. 01704 560270

MIRRORED WARDROBE DOORS Two mirrored wardrobe sliding doors (doors only) in excellent condition. Will fit majority of tracks. The border is white and quite thin so will suit all decors £20 07523013608

MORPHY RICHARDS 2 slice toaster, chrome, ex con, gwo £10 01704 870843

MOVING HOUSE please call for details, very cheap, loads of stuff £offers 07535 936810

NEST OF TABLES Traditional wooden design, glass topped, 3 tables. good quality. £25 01704 211622

NEW LUXURY PLUSH double bed throw, raspberry pink, £9.50. Delicate 9ct gold bracelet £12 0151 476 7482

OAK NEST OF TABLES 3, largest measures 45cm x 50 cm x 34cm, barely used, new con £90 07790 657596

OCCASIONAL TRIPOD TABLE Solid wood (possibly mahogany?) occasional table with tripod legs. £20 01704 211622

OUTDOOR WALL LIGHT LANTERN Quality IP44 rated stainless steel upward facing modern outdoor 230V wall light lantern with PIR. Dawn to dusk adjustable. Cost £87 when purchased from Wickes but has never been used. In original box with instructions £30 07887954364

PANASONIC VACUUM CLEANER good cond £15. stainless steel stock pot 9' good cond £8. also 8' and 7' s/steel stelar saucepans £25 01704 570374

QUALITY GLASS topped metal table and 4 upholstered chairs, as new £125. 2 electric massaging chairs and footstools, each £40 01704 873199

RECLINER ARMCHAIR Reclining mechanism needs attention, cost over £500, light grey / stone colour £20 01704 211622

RECLINER ARMCHAIR Quality recliner, light grey / stone colour, cost over £500, good condition £40 01704 211622

RELYON POCKET SPRUNG divan bed. Double size and in perfect clean condition. Used in spare room only. Southport. £75 07801 493946

RISE AND RECLINE 2 electric armchairs in green, excellent condition £100 each. 2 matching static armchairs also available £50 each. £ Ring 01704872242 after 2.00p.m

ROCKING CHAIR wooden, ex con £20 01695 577424

ROLLER BLIND ivory, blackout, width 183cm(6ft).new, in original packaging, unwanted purchase from Dunelm. £10.00 01772813588

ROYAL DOULTON figurine Olivia £50. Royal Worcester figurine Last Waltz £50. Coalport figurine Princess Alexandra £50 0151 929 2624

SEWING MACHINE Janome Memorycraft 5000, Built in patterns and discs for automatic embroidery absolute bargain. £350 o.n.o. 01704539324

SHEESHAM COFFEE TABLE Rustic Sheesham hardwood small square table with black ironwork. Size 45cm W x 45cm D X 40cm H. Very good condition. £30 01704 560150

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SOFAS 3 and 3 seater, brown leather, photo available £120 01704 550489

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GARDENING

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GARDENING

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GARDENING

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HOBBIES

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HOBBIES

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TOYS AND GAMES

MOUSE Trap Game, Unwanted Gift, Formby Area £10 01704876031

NINTENDO Wii Fit Plus and Wii Sports, Including Balance Board. Also Mario Kart Game with Steering Wheel. In Original Box. £70 o.n.o. 01704211754

OZBOZZ FIRST SCOOTER My first scooter in blue & green.4 wheels can be adjusted to 3. Folds for easy storage. Suit from 2 yrs. Hardly used. £10.00 07709321569

PLAYMOBIL Recycling truck 3 wheelie bins/3 men. £12 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

PLAYMOBIL Pirates Island and Shipwreck includes figures £12 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

THOMAS STORYTIME THEATRE Thomas Tank Magic Storytime Theatre with 2 cartridges and books. Used but v.g.c in original box. £15 07976556270

THOMAS THE TANK Thomas wooden tidmouth sheds £75.00 new. To fit with the wooden track. £15.00 01695423769

THOMAS THE TANK Over £150 worth of Thomas trackmaster tracks including tunnels, tracks and bridges. £25.00 01695423769

TP SWING SLIDE TP All in one swings (2), large slide and extender, glider(for 2 people) and platform, sturdy metal frame, 12'x14' approx. Originally from GH Lee. Space needed hence bargain price. £70 o.n.o. 07762217784

ZINC NITRO SCOOTER featuring lights, sound, front and rear bright lights, used only twice, vgc £15 07547 069067

MISC

3 PIECE SUITE Leather, Cream v.good condition £195.00 01772 814993 07766063495

2 METAL PAINTED milk urns, vgc, £75 the pair £40 each 0151 531 9317

3 MANPROACTIVE TENT Blue 3man tent, outer shell and ground sheet combined. Slight hole near pocket in inner room, otherwise good condition. Buyer collects. £25 01695573147

BEACH BAG with wooden handles, brand new will fasten across £5.50 01519287583

BLUE CHINESE RUG £75. Gold/black mirror £35. Electric sewing machine £30. New in box pond pump £20. Safety gate £15. Coat/dress, silver 18 £35 0151 476 4489

BROTHER SEWING MACHINE VX–1125 Zig Zag Perfect Working Order. Professionally Serviced Prior To Advertising. Hardly Been Used. Cost £220.00 New. Bargain at £55.00. Tarleton PR46HN £55.00 07792679888

CAMPBED Single campbed, good condition, buyer collects. £10 01695573147

CAMPING CHAIR Green camping chair good condition, buyer collects. £4 01695573147

CANOPY OUTSIDE STORAGE tubular steel and canvas canopy. 6m x 3m x 3m suitable for car, caravan or boat £100 o.n.o. 01695 421655

COAL SCUTTLE Old galvanised coal scuttle, would suit canal barge or as a plant display, would look nice painted also. £14.00 07530562650

CONDIMENTS percival duffins salt elton kirbys pepper shakers set tin metal vintage, a collectable set £20.00 07790791733

COOLER BOX 22ltr cooler box, ideal for camping/picnics. Used for one weekend only and in immaculate condition. £20.00 o.n.o. 01704875299

CORONATION FARTHING Coronation year of our Queen Elizabeth II 1953 farthing coin. Tarnished but lovely original condition. Little wear. £5.00 01704 546978

DECKCHAIR multi–coloured striped deckchair £15.00 07790791733

DESIGNER SET black silver mens watch, belt and wallet designer boxed gift set £15.00 07790791733

DIGITAL CAMERA SOFTCASE Quality Lowepro compact camera case, well padded case with zip closure and reinforced protection at the base. Secure pockets for memory cards and spare battery. Adjustable, removable shoulder strap and velcro belt loop and integral rain cover – nearly new. Colour Grey & black. £10.00 01704 546978

DOG INTELLIGENCE TEST How Smart is Your Dog? Fun intelligence assessment games for your dog. Boxed with free stopwatch. New and unopened. Retails for £15.99Maghull area. No text or withheld numbers. £8 07887954364

DOUBLE INFLATABLE camp bed £10 0151 929 2624

DVDS history of flight and book set, secret aircraft of the super powers 8xdvd box set, milestones of flight 8xdvd box set £10.00 each o.n.o. 07790791733

FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA WANTED programmes, ticket stubs paninis metal pin badges players match worn shirts boots medals etc cash paid ££s 01515319425 or 07773242918

GAS CAMPING COOKER 2 burners 1 grill plus stand, gas bottle and regulator £60 0151 526 6235

GAS HOB 4 rings, white, brilliant con £35 o.n.o. 0151 5319413

HANDBAG lovely navy blue with gilt ends and double sided mirror inside, must be seen, as new £5 o.n.o. 0151 928 7583

HIP FLASKS southern comfort 2oz, tartan 4oz, red leather 4oz hip flasks £25.00 07790791733

HUSQVARNA SEWING MACHINE Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machine. Model 6430. Multi Stitch. Excellent Working Order with Manual. Serviced Prior to Advertising. Heavy Duty. Sews Silk, Denim Canvas, Leather. Bargain!!! £65.00 o.n.o. 07792679888

JACK DANIELS jack daniels old no7 brand black face wind up alarm clock, with old no7 brand brown leather wallet £15.00 07790791733

LARGE KOKORICO AFTERSHAVE Brand new sealed Kokorico aftershave spray 100 ml edt for men by jpg sealed in tin ideal fathers day gift. £20 Burs 01704895709

LIMITED EDITION city of bradford tourist guide, mint cond, cover bty david hockney £20 01704 542162 or 07989 518691

MICROWAVE gwo £10. Hand lawn mower, vgc £20. Guitar and amp, ex con £30 £30 01744 632889

MOTOR CYCLE MONTHLY 14 editions of classic magazines 1983–1984 all in mint condition £10 01704 873529

MULTI–STEAMER meyer 3tier stainless steel multi–steamer new not boxed £10.00 07790791733

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES all as new approx 50 in all May deliver £15.00 o.n.o. 01515263851

PHOTO FRAME BEECH WITH SILVER BORDER ONLY used couple of months – excellent condition – lovely beech colour with silver border. Can be hung horizontally or vertically – pics available if required size 13' x 11' £3 01695 721973

SHALEY SHOPPING TROLLEY cost £80, sell for £25. Left handed golf clubs, suit beginner, plus bag, balls £25 01695 577087

SKY BOXES 2 sky+hd boxes with remote controls no cards. £20.00 07921815283

STURDY TRAVEL BAG 3 compartments, padded grab handle, push button extendable pull handle on wheels, used once £20 0151922 0634

SUITCASE extendable handle with wheels, combination lock, 51 x 38cm, expandable, green check pattern, integrated compass, could deliver locally £25 o.n.o. 07513 584289

SWATCH POP WATCH Lonely Island design. Never worn. In original packaging with paperwork. very collectable. Maghull area. No text or with held numbers. £45 07887954364

MISC

SWATCH STRIPP WATCH Never worn. In original feature style packaging with paperwork. Changeable snap on attachments. very collectable. Maghull area. No text or withheld numbers. £35 07887954364

TABLE SAW 10' table saw with new blade, but not working. Either switch or motor fault. £25.00 01704 546978

THERMOS FLASK slimline stainless steel, handy size, brand new £6 o.n.o. 0151 928 7583

TRAINERS/FOOTBALL BOOTS adidas and nike all different sizes kids upwards excellent condition suit ebayer or carbooter bargain about 50 pairs £5 a pair 01515319425 or 07773242918

VINTAGE PLOUGH Old fashioned metal hand plough in original condition. Buyer must collect from Scarisbrick. £40 01704840706

VINTAGE SCARIFIER Old fashioned hand pulled scarifier in original condition. Buyer must collect from Scarisbrick. £50 01704840706

WANTED Records, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, folk, rock, indie, punk etc, bought for cash £0 01704 566210 after 6pm

WANTED Wrought iron railing wanted, 30' x 12–18' high, happy to buy rusty ones for renovation £neg 07546254448

WATERMAN FOUNTAIN PEN. Expert 3 Matt Black Chrome Trim Fountain Pen. Unused and boxed with original paperwork and an ink cartridge. Retails for £115 at The Pen Shop where it was bought. Unwanted gift.Maghull area no text or withheld numbers £35 07887954364

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2 RISER BEDS single, vgc £100 each. Light weight mobility scooter, folding, hardly used, cost £800, will sell for £350 07792 765703

4 WHEELS WALKING AID with shopping bag, seat, backrest, locking brakes, little used, good con, can deliver £40 07752 362843

ELITE TRAVELLER SCOOTER used once, still under warranty, unforsen circumstance forces sale. fits in car boot, cost £635 will sell for £475 0151 922 9974

KEVLAR CARBON KC100 back protector as new £20 01704 630615

MOBILITY ROLLATOR Mobility walking aid with handlegrips and a small seat. VGC as never used. Southport £25 07801 493946

MOBILITY SCOOTER vgc, hardly used, first to see will buy £300 o.n.o. 01695 628343

MOBILITY SCOOTER will dismantle to go in car, 12 months old, good con £400 o.n.o. 01704 871038 /07842 149 647

MOBILITY

MOBILITY SCOOTER CHAIR has new hardly used folds into 4 pieces fits into car.right arm control, use inside and outside. £395.00 01704 232110

MOBILITY WALKER 4 wheels with basket and seat £65 o.n.o. 07890 965265

MYCO BATH SEAT swivel bath seat, had a while but unused in excellent condition. £25 07976556270

SCOOTER Go Go Elite, purchased 9/4/15. Still under guarantee, unforeseen circumstance force sale. Fits car boot, used once. Cost £635 £OPEN TO OFFERS 0151 922 9974

TABLE for over bed/ chair £10. Gel cushion £10. 4 wheeled walker with brakes, seat and shopping basket and bag £35 01704 260276

WHEELCHAIR Self propelling in V. G. C. Ormskirk area £45 01695 575534

WHEELCHAIR self propelling in vgc £45 01695 575334

WHEELCHAIR blue self propelling, easily folds for transport, vgc £50 01704 220865

WHEELED COMMODE never been used vgc £70 ono. Also wheelchair, vgc £60 07890 965265

MOTORING

10' MINI WHEELS and tyres £10 each. 14' Mondeo wheel and tyre £15 01704 893577

ALLOY WHEEL and tyre, barracuda 195/60/15 4 stud £100. Alloy wheel and tyre 215/40/17 5 stud £75. Steel wheel 195/60/15 5 stud £15 01695 731853

ALLOY WHEELS Four Alloy Wheels with Tyres Two very very good, Two worn with tracking being out But may still be useable unsure. With four studded fittings. size195.50.15 last used on a Astra car. £60.00 07828257518

CAR TRAILER 6ftx4ft trailer with lid. dropdown tailgate good condition £200 01514761909

HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST folds flat, loads of Haynes workshop manuals, pair heavy duty ramps made by a blacksmith £offers 01695 722142

JERRY CAN 20L 20L Jerry can as new no rust metal green army style. £12 01704 570399

NEW CAR MATS To Fit BMW Mini 2006 – March 2014;Mini One, Cooper, Cooper D & Cooper S. 650 grm straight cut pile, cleans very easily. Really excellent, good quality. Wrong ones for my car £19.99 01704 833273

NEW CAR RADIO New unused car radio with bluetooth MP3 sd card slot USB and Aux input detachable front panel as added security and has a Remote control Great for todays motorists Brand new in box. Bargain. £25.00 07828257518

NEW CAR/VAN TYRE Brand new and unused 165x80x13 tyre on steel rim. Can be refitted to any other 13 inch wheel rim. £20.00 01704 546978

PARROT CK3000 Bluetooth Handsfree car phone kit. Still in box, got for previous car but never fitted £15 o.n.o. 01695 421655

ROOFRACK Two bar locking roof rack to fit Vauxhall corsa as new £40 01695733995

ROOFRACK Two bar locking roof rack to fit Vauxhall corsa as new. £40 01695733995

SLEEPING BAGS 2xpink chequered adult sleeping bags in good condition £5 each 01514761909

SNUGTOP FOR NAVARA a silver carryboy fastback snugtop with blacked out windows fits nissan navara comes with 2 keys £600.00 ovno 07921815283

SPACESAVER SPARE WHEEL brand new, fits Seat Leon, cost £180 £90 0776 126 3637

TRAILER 4ftx3ft car trailer in good condition £100 01514761909

TRAILER ideal for camping, heavy duty cover and spare wheel and extra, nice clean £250 07734 499697

TRAMPOLINE 12ft good cond with unused enclosure. £45 01704 570399

MOTORING

VARIOUS TOOLS incl Engine Hoist, Ramps etc £Call 01695 722142

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FELIX as good as it looks pouches, 129 in all, bargain £30 01704 546588

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LAWN MOWERS qualcast punch self propelled £50 flymoturbo lite mower 40 £50 01704211459

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WHITE BIRD CAGE white metal bird cage H45 W35 D28 cms. New. never been used. plastic pull out dirt tray. 2 perches 2 feed bowls and a swing. £10 01704220356

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13220	21395
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Parkhaven Trust

Chair of Board of Trustees & Trustee

We would like to recruit to the positions of Chair and Trustee to join the Board of Parkhaven Trust.

We are looking for individuals who understand the adult care sector, have Board level experience and experience of service development.

The posts are not remunerated but reasonable expenses will be paid. For an informal discussion please contact Kim Crowe, Chief Executive, on 0151 527 3668.

For further details, please contact Vicky Shanahan, Trust Administrator, vicky.shanahan@parkhaven.org.uk or 0151 526 4133. To find out more about Parkhaven Trust, please visit www.parkhaven.org.uk

Parkhaven Trust is committed to equality of opportunity for all.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

Registered Charity Number 210163

Closing date: 19th June 2015.
Provisional Interview date: 2nd July 2015.

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BT

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H&SCP health & social care partnerships

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIPS

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DEATHS

Bird Albert Edward

May 31st 2015
Aged 97 years.

Devoted husband of the late Kathleen, much loved dad to John, Paul and the late Peter. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. The family would like to thank all the staff at Dovecote Manor Nursing Home for looking after Albert so well. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 8th June at 12.40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice and Masonic Samaritan Fund. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport PR8 5AW. Tel: 01704 500086

1140792

DEATHS

Brenda West
Nee Twist

Passed away peacefully on May 27th at home

Much loved and will be sorely missed by all her family and friends.

45569

BIRTHDAYS

Barry Nolan
05/06/1945
Happy 70th Birthday

With an ache in my heart I whisper low
Happy birthday Barry we miss you so.
Teresa and Family xxx

5105907

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1139121

DEATHS

Mills Annie

On 25th May 2015

Peacefully in Beacon View Nursing Home.
Aged 91 years.

Loving wife of the late Norman, devoted Mum of Irene and Son in law Dave, cherished Nan of Gail and Tam, Paul and Kelly and Great Nan of all her Great Grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 4th June at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Beacon View Nursing Home. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

1140719

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

Bernie Monaghan

2nd June 1952

Your 3rd Birthday away from home

There are so many thoughts of you on this special day, and so many memories that will never fade away.
I think of you and miss you even more.

Love always
Jude
XXX

45458

IN MEMORIAM

Wall Patricia

9th June 2014

I cried when you passed away
I still cry today
Although I loved you dearly
I couldn't make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating.
Hard working hands at rest
God broke my heart
to prove to me
He only takes the best.

Love from all the family

xxxx

45554

DEATHS

Morgan Brenda

24th May 2015

aged 67 years.

Loving wife of the late Ivan. Devoted Mum of Anthony and William, cherished Nana and Great Nana of all her grandchildren and a much loved Niece of Auntie Brenda, Uncle Bill and family, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 3rd June at 1.20pm. Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries Margaret, Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

1140665

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

Jackson Edith

5th June

No birthday cards
to send today,
just our tears
to wipe away.

Happy Birthday
Mum.

Miss you,
from all
your family

xxx

45570

IN MEMORIAM

Mooney Brenda

23/5/44 - 2/6/05

Though you're gone,
you're never far away
Loved and remembered
every day
Forever in our hearts
Love forever
Husband George, sons
Dean and Gary
XXX

45568

Durnin Beryl

29 May 2009
In Loving Memory

Never more than
a thought away Mum,
Dearly loved and
missed always

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John x Jac x

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Announcements

PRAYER

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

45567

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

E.B.

PRAYER

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. **C.M**

PRAYER

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

A.W

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

T.C

GRATEFUL thanks to the Virgin Mary. JH (45556)

Personal

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45557

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0509/FUL Replacement glasshouses at Hundred End Nurseries, Hundred End Lane, Hesketh Bank.
Application No: 2015/0517/FUL Erection of new permanent timber cabin classroom at Maharishi School, Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2015/0538/FUL Extension by 18 months of temporary planning permission for meteorological mast. (Current planning permission reference 2012/0407/FUL) at Land North Of Lydiate Station Road, Carr Lane, Great Altcar.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0520/FUL Erection of a single storey side extension to create a boot room / utility room at Tildsleys Farmhouse, Elmers Green Lane, Skelmersdale.
Application No: 2015/0521/LBC Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey side extension to create a boot room/utility room at Tildsleys Farmhouse, Elmers Green Lane, Skelmersdale.
Application No: 2015/0524/FUL Change of use and extension of Moor Hall, its outbuildings and gatehouse lodge, alongside ancillary provisions including car parking and landscaping, to enable use as a restaurant with rooms at Moor Hall, Prescot Road, Aughton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2015/0525/LBC Listed Building Consent - Change of use and extension of Moor Hall, its outbuildings and gatehouse lodge, alongside ancillary provisions including car parking and landscaping, to enable use as a restaurant with rooms at Moor Hall, Prescot Road, Aughton.
Application No: 2015/0526/FUL Change of use and conversion of part of hotel to 10 self-contained residential apartments (Use Class C3) at Holland Hall Hotel, Lafford Lane, UpHolland.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2015/0530/FUL Erect a new three storey purpose build student accommodation to the rear of The Elms, 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk and to join this new block to the existing Grade II listed building with a two storey link building. The existing building will also be converted to student accommodation at 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2015/0531/LBC Listed Building Consent - Erect a new three storey purpose build student accommodation to the rear of The Elms, 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk and to join this new block to the existing Grade II listed building with a two storey link building. The existing building will also be converted to student accommodation at 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2015/0547/LBC Listed Building Consent - Biomass boiler installation at Lancashire Manor Hotel, Prescott Road, East Pimbo, UpHolland.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 3rd June 2015
PDNOT846

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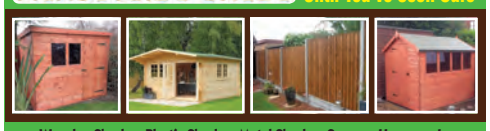
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The Mitsuoka Roadster is definitely an acquired taste **Code NA**

APOLOGIES if you've come here expecting a thorough dusting down of the new Vauxhall Astra.

As family–friendly hatches go it's hugely important, given that it's built in this neck of the woods and if you aren't buying one, chances are you'll know someone who'll inevitably get assigned one by their fleet manager.

But while I'm looking forward to getting a go in one it's not the snippet of motoring news that registers highest on the Simister–ometer. New Vauxhall Astras come along every couple of years.

Someone deciding they're going to import offerings from Japan's weirdest car company, on the other hand, is genuinely curious stuff. A warm welcome, then, to Mitsuoka!

Chances are you've no idea who or what a Mitsuoka is, because for years they've been confined to Japan. In essence what the company doesis it taps into the Orient's obsession with woolly British nostalgia by taking other company's models and then giving them the sort of radiator grille you'd normally find on a Morris Oxford. Ever seen those Nissan Micras rejigged to look a (tiny) bit like a Jaguar Mk2? That's Mitsuoka's handiwork. As is the Galue, a mid–range Nissan made to look like a 1950s Bentley.

Until now, these utterly Marmite and endearingly odd cars have only ventured over here through the world of unofficial imports, but now you can buy one of its cars in Britain for the first time. The Mitsuoka Roadster might very well be a Mazda MX–5 pretending to be a Morgan at a fancy dress party – and it might cost a eyebrow–raising £54,000 – but it's that rare thing. It's a brand new car that's positively overflowing with charm and character.

The Surrey firm who've taken the brave decision to import it reckon it'll sell because there are lots of you out there who love the look of Britain's classic cars but can't be bothered spending every weekend in the garage, spanner in hand. That's why it's got a grille clearly nicked off your granddad's Daimler Majestic, and then nailed onto a car with a folding metal roof, ABS and automatic air con.

It'll be a tall order flogging us Brits a Mitsuoka Roadster when it costs two grand more than a Porsche Boxster S, but I reckon after the departure of Daihatsu there's room for another oddball manufacturer from the Far East.

No matter how horrifically retro its offerings look.

David Simister is news editor of Classic Car Weekly

New Skoda Superb

By David Simister

AN ESTATE version of the new Škoda Superb is available to order now, with the first cars arriving here in September. It has 660 litres of boot space – 27 more than the car it replaces – and that goes up to 1,950 litres when you fold the rear seats down. The load–lugger accounts for more than third of all Superb sales.

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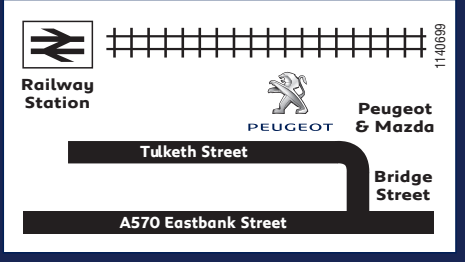

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Amount Financed	£11415.04
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Guaranteed Future Value	£7315
Total Amount Payable	£13694.64
Interest	£799.61
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• Air Con
• CD Player

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• 28000 Miles
• Alloys
• Priv Glass
• CD Player

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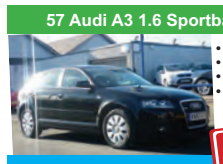

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• Alloys
• Air Con
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• 1/2 Leather
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• Priv Glass

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• Air Con

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• Alloys

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• Alloys
• Air Con

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13 Ford C Max 1.6 Tdci Zetec

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

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• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 59000 Miles
• Alloys

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• CD Player

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• Leather
• Alloys
• FSH
• CD Player

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• Automatic
• 47000 Miles
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11 Jaguar Xf 3.0 Diesel Luxury

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Sat Nav
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61 Bmw 520 Diesel Se Auto 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
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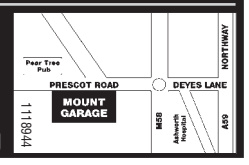

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Skipper leads from front as Ormskirk regain top spot

Report by **Glenn Wallworth**

ORMSKIRK replaced New Brighton at the top of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division table with a 58–run home win over Leigh.

The hosts elected to bat first with in–form skipper Matty Glayzer (72) and Andy Baybutt (39) paving the way for a 55–over declaration on 190–8, with Richard Dempster (3–42) and Matty McKiernan (3–52) the pick of the bowlers.

In reply, Ross Zelem (60) and Hedley Molyneux (25) got the visitors off to a great start, but the innings then crumbled from 99–2 to 132 all out, as Liam Hurt (5–51) and Dane Currency (3–40) bowled Ormskirk back to the summit.

Southport & Birkdale recorded a remarkable three–run home win over leaders New Brighton.

The hosts elected to bat first on a wearing wicket that was used by Lancashire and Derbyshire only three days previously and from the off batting was difficult, particularly against spinner Ashraf Nawab who reduced the hosts to 66–6 with only Josh Bohannon (37) offering much resistance.

However, a last–wicket stand of 31 between Aussie keeper James McCombie (40*) and Andy Warhurst (2) propelled S&B from 101–9 to 132 all out.

In reply the visitors looked well set for victory on 75–1, with lifelong supporter Paul Halsall giving up the ghost and going home early.

From the moment he left the ground the game took a dramatic swing and in no time S&B were back in it with skipper Chris Firth and Chris Brownlow taking three wickets apiece to reduce the leaders to 97–6.

Upal Fernando (25) then took the score to 118–6 before Bohannon got in on the wickets with a couple and Firth took another and at 118–9 it was anyone's game particularly when two chances went down.

One last twist in the tail then saw the visitors move to 129–9, before Nawab swung a Bohannon delivery straight up in the air and McCombie waited an age for the ball to drop out of the clouds and fall into his waiting gloves to give S&B a remarkable win.

Northern elected to bat at Lytham and duly declared after 48.4 overs on 220–5, thanks to Stephen Lucas (72), Davy Smith (47*), Justin Snow (24) and Liam Grey (35).

In reply, Lytham managed to hold out for a draw on 177–9, thanks to an unbeaten 59 from Ben Saunders and 54 from Dan Edwards, with Tom Sephton taking 5–52.

Third placed Formby were put in to bat at bottom–of–the–table Rainhill and eventually declared after 59.4 overs on 154–8, with Elliot Ketteringham (37), Jude Mahadanaarachchi (29) and Jack Vale (24) scoring the bulk of the runs, whilst Mohammad Qureshi took 4–43.

In reply Alex Lines quickly removed the top three, but 50 from Qureshi and 36 from Mike Rotheram helped hold Formby at bay as they closed on 131–9 off 56 overs, with Lines (4–43) and Vale (3–13) the pick of the bowlers.

In the First Division, Fleetwood Hesketh were hammered by 173 runs at title favourites Colwyn Bay.

Zac Gidlow (86) and George Johansen (90) fully justified batting first as the hosts declared after 45 overs on 222–6.

In reply, Samed Fallah took 5–13 from 13 overs and Ryan Holtby took 3–18 as Fleetwood were dismissed for just 49, with Dean Skelton (21) the only batsman to reach double figures.

Ainsdale had the better of a home draw against second–placed Maghull.

The hosts chose to bat and declared after 54 overs on 221–9, thanks in the main to Mal Swift (84*), Mark Foster (47) and skipper Andy Barlow (32), with Declan Devine (3–44) and Ryan Swiers (3–61) taking the bowling honours.

In reply, Liam Crilly (40) and Aussie Joel Brockley (33) top–scored for the visitors who ended on 161–8 off 54 overs, with Adnan Rasool taking 5–59.

In the Second Division Hightown St Mary's lost at home by three wickets to Sutton.

The hosts chose to bat and were dismissed for 125, with Shaun Vosloo (37) and Bright Njanji (24) top–scoring, whilst Jamie Greener took 5–31.

In reply, skipper Adam Onion (32), Jamie Greener (28) and Jon Green (22) took the visitors to victory on 127–7 with Njanji taking 3–33.

• **This weekend's local LDCC fixtures (1pm):** Formby v Ormskirk, Leigh v Southport & Birkdale, Northern v Rainhill, Fleetwood Hesketh v Prestatyn, Maghull v Newton–le–Willows, St Helens v Ainsdale, Burscough v Birkenhead St Mary's and Wavertree v Hightown St Mary's.

Burscough make it six out of six to go 29 points clear of Second Division rivals

BURSCOUGH maintained their impressive start to the campaign in the Second Division of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition, making it six wins out of six with a 95–run success away to Orrell Red Triangle.

The home side won the toss and elected to put the visitors in to bat, but after an early success with the wicket of Lee Berrie for just eight runs, they soon had cause to rue the decision as Burscough built up a good total.

Ryan Hughes (15) and wicketkeeper Michael Bimpson steadied the ship, putting on 34 for the second wicket.

Then Bimpson (88) and Brendan Domigan (77) added a match–winning 150 partnership to put the School Lane outfit firmly in the driving seat.

Alan Murray (31*) and skipper Jon Stone (22) also made useful contributions as Burscough amassed 257–7 declared off 59.2 overs.

Phil Taberner with 3–66 was pick of the home bowlers.

In reply, Orrell made a good start with openers David Naylor (39) and Andrew Mottram (31) putting on 51 for the first wicket.

Once the breakthough had been made though they to slipped 162 all out with Jon Stone (5–51) their tormentor–in–chief taking his Burscough side 29 points clear at the top.

Soccer girls on target for county finals

TALENTED girl footballers from St Anne's Catholic Primary defeated rivals from 14 other local schools to win a place at a prestigious county–wide sporting extravaganza.

The Aughton Street hot–shots triumphed in a high–scoring district qualifying tournament staged at the JMO Sports Park in Skelmersdale and will now represent West Lancashire in the finals of the SPAR Lancashire School Games to be held at Stanley Park, Blackpool on June 30.

Now in its ninth year, the event is the biggest school games scheme in the county and the finals will see more than 2,000 children compete in gymnastics, handball, football, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis and tag rugby.

The girls' football team from St Anne's Primary School celebrate their success

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The Champion

focus on Summer Living

Summertime and the living is easy...

Summer is the time of year where we can finally open our doors and windows and enjoy those long evenings and weekends, sipping a chilled glass of something nice whilst chatting away. It is the time when thoughts turn to revamping outdoor spaces, Barbecues, al fresco living, maybe getting away for the weekend, long walks in the sunshine and generally enjoying the great outdoors. When summer finally arrives on our doorstep, even those midweek evenings are tinged with a holiday glow. We feel free, the kids enjoy being outside, away from TV's and computers and when we do decide to go out for the day, a picnic is something the whole family can get involved with and enjoy.

Focus on Summer Living is your handy guide for making the most of the Summer months, full of tips and fresh ideas to ensure you and your family have a great time this Summer.

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A SEASON ON YOUR PLATE

Summer is a season that looks glorious on a plate. The foods of summer are fresh, uncomplicated and naturally full of flavour. And because summer is a hot season, we generally eat less, making our diets healthier for us without actually thinking too much about it.

The only boundary as far as your plate is concerned is your imagination. Beans on toast summer style can be a very satisfying meal or snack. Just top a thick slice of well toasted garlic rubbed ciabatta with cream cheese, green pesto and top with a mixture of cooked and tender peas and broad beans drizzling a little bit of extra virgin olive oil and a few drops of balsamic vinegar on top before you serve. A few slices of prosciutto or grilled chicken will make this an even more substantial meal. Or try and macerate a few fresh strawberries in a few drops of balsamic vinegar (no, honest!) and a twist or two of cracked black pepper. Let them sit an hour or so and top with a few torn basil leaves. The true taste of summer on a plate and the easiest of desserts.

Summer is the season when taking a little time shopping can reward you with much faster preparation. Ditch the supermarket in favour of your local greengrocer and buy red, ripe tomatoes full of flavour, and tender fresh green beans. Chop a few spring onions, dress the tomatoes and cooked, cool beans with a simple vinaigrette and tumble in some tinned tuna, a few chopped hard boiled eggs and a handful of basil leaves. Hey presto! You have a delicious salad nicoise, fit to rival any French restaurant's offering. Buy some large red peppers and stick them on the barbecue at the end of your cooking while the coals are still hot, turning them until the skin is black. Peel the skin off when cool (put them in a plastic bag tightly shut for a couple of hours or overnight and they will peel easily) and clean them, cutting the flesh in strips. Layer them in a shallow dish drizzling a little olive oil on each layer. They will keep in your fridge for a few days and they are great on pizzas, in salads, with cold meats or even on their own with a chunk of good bread.

Go on, surprise yourself and live a healthy and flavour full summer!

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BBQ TIPS

- ✓ **Don't cook cold meat**. If you're only going to change one thing about your barbecue habits, make sure you always bring your meat back to room temperature before cooking. The biggest struggle with cooking on the barbecue to get the heat from the outside of your steak into the middle without burning the surface to a cinder. The warmer things are in the middle before it goes onto the fire, the easier it is to win the battle.
- ✓ **Preheat properly**. If you're going to get a good crust on your food and that lovely BBQ flavour, you need your barbecue to be hot before you start cooking. This also helps if you've been a bit slack in the cleaning department.
- ✓ **Thin is in**. The thinner your meat, the less far the heat has to travel to cook to the middle, so the easier it is to get the inside right without burning the outside. If you really must have 2 inch thick steaks, think about starting them on the barbie to sear and get the flavour and then finishing them in the oven.
- ✓ **Don't poke and prod**. It takes time for your caramelised BBQ crust to develop and this won't happen if you're continually flipping your steaks and burgers. Only turn once or twice. And definitely don't squash everything down as this forces the juices to run out and leaves you with sad dry meat. Sausages are also best left alone – piercing the skins dries them out.
- ✓ **Don't fuel the fire with fat**. I used to put the marinade over my meat on the grill and wonder why the flames flared up and turned everything to charcoal. It took me a while but I finally figured it out. Now I make sure my meat is well drained of excess marinade or I cook it on the hot plate. For fatty meat like chops it's best to either trim or cook them on the hot plate and finish them off on the grill.
- ✓ **Remember food hygiene**. It's funny how the outdoors can make some people forget the basics. Always put your cooked food on a clean plate or chopping board and never add marinade that was used for raw meat to cooked meat. Simple.

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Feed the soil and the soil feeds the plants. Healthy soil promotes healthy plants that are more capable of resisting insect and disease problems. Feed the soil with plenty of compost.

Weed Control. Weeds are a problem in and of themselves, but they also harbour insects and disease. If you weed regularly, particularly at the beginning of the growing season, it should be relatively easy to keep weeds at bay. Take out your dead. Get rid of rotting or dead vegetation such as leaves, pulled weeds and plant stalks. Dying vegetable matter can be a haven for pests.

Disinfect your tools. Keep diseases out of your garden by routinely disinfecting your tools. This is doubly important if your tools come in contact with diseased plant parts.

Stay cool. When heat strikes, provide shade to your plants to keep them from wilting. Cheesecloth makes great shade cover.

Use mulch. A thick layer of mulch deprives weeds and their seeds of light and helps retain soil moisture. Mulch in spring and autumn.

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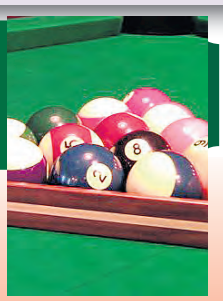

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ALWAYS OUT TOP TIPS

- ✓ Make sure the kids have a bucket and spade each and a beach ball. Buy those beforehand as beach or park's shops will be expensive.
- ✓ Take a picnic with you. Keep it simple. Pork pies, sausage rolls, crisps, finger sandwiches and a punnet of strawberries to share will always be popular. Don't forget some chilled water or very weak cordial for the little ones.
- ✓ Keep'em cool. Get some extra t shirts, caps and sun cream even if it looks a bit cloudy. We all know how quick everything can turn so take some protection for the rain as well, one never knows!
- ✓ Invest in a cooler. Always have some freeze packs in the freezer for some nice cold water (or a cheeky bottle of rose!)

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OUTDOOR DINING ROOM

If the weather is warm and the sun is shining, make a pledge to spend more time enjoying your outdoor space this summer. Your parties and barbecues are one thing but you can also live day by day, from one evening to another outside, as long as you organise yourself a little before hand.

Living outside essentially is like extending a holiday or experiencing freedom that long winter months indoors never allow.

Whether your outdoor space is large or small, you will need to commit to living in it as much as you can. So first thing is a good tidy up. Make it look as nice as you can, clean it up, get a fresh vibe going by either changing a few things, repainting or replacing the fencing or buying some new garden furniture. You are basically wanting to live a couple of months outdoors but after a long day at work, sitting out needs to be as easy and natural as seating in your lounge.

If you know the day ahead is going to be nice and hot, dress your outside space before going to work. A cushion on a chair, the barbecue ready to go, cleaned out and gleaming, food ready and marinating in the fridge, your favourite wine chilling. In other words, entice yourself coming back.

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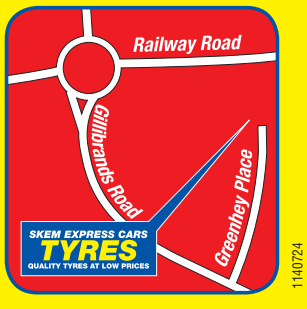

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SUMMER DANGERS

We live for those few weeks of sun and when the time finally comes we embrace it with all our hearts. However, those lovely days can also be a threat to our health if we don't follow a few simple rules of awareness. Here are our top ten tips to make sure you have the best summer ever.

SUMMER DANGERS TOP TEN

10 - FOOD POISONING. Food left out too long and warmed up, badly cooked barbecue food, too many raw, uncovered foods in fridges can all mean food poisoning. Bad enough for adults but children can really suffer. Be also careful also as you revive old gadgets (electric fly swatters, barbecue motorised rotisserie, etc) and leave batteries out for toddlers to play with. Just be extra vigilant, cover all foods well and keep things refrigerated as long as possible. Get rid of any potential dangers soon as you see them.

9 – DROWNING. The water may look inviting but rivers/lakes/ponds are deep and unforgiving. The water may be icy cold, take your breath away and the worse can happen in minutes. If signs are up forbidding swimming, there is a reason. Don't be a fool.

8 – INSECT BITES. Children in particular can really suffer. Dress your little ones in light clothes, long sleeves and pants if possible and light colours. There are products you can also spray to repel insects but be aware that some are highly chemical.

7 – SUN DAMAGE. This is a well known source of discomfort that later in life can lead to much worse. The best way is still to use a good sun cream. Be aware that some cheaper makes may not be as effective as you would like and that where children and elderly people are concerned it is better to over protect than under protect. Go for a high factor for yourself to start with and gradually decrease the strength. Remember that it is always better to NOT burn.

6 – KEEP HYDRATED. In the summer, many older people really suffer and often, it is due to not drinking enough. In the hot weather, drinking lots of water is primordial and the elderly in particular are at risk as they can sometimes simply forget. Water is always best but very weak cordial can encourage a child to drink more.

5 – FIRE. Barbecues can be lethal. Not by themselves of course but by what some people do with them. Squirting flammable liquids on the flames to encourage a quicker start can create a backlash and burn, leaving a barbecue unattended after cooking time can be dangerous as it will continue to generate heat for a long while. Cooking on a fire that is not ready will blacken the food outside and keep the inside raw... in short, beware. When you start the fire, build it well with sticks and a few pieces of coal, topping up as you need. Count 20 to 30 minutes before cooking. Only cook when the coal is covered in white ash NOT when the flames are showing and douse with water as soon as you have finished. Do not allow children or pets anywhere near till the following day.

4 – CARS. Do NOT leave children and dogs inside parked cars for ANY moment of time. Not for 30 seconds even! Often, an accident involving a child or dog left in a car is due to the fact that the driver thought he or she "would only take a minute". A minute becomes twenty and in some instances it is too late when they finally get back. The heat and lack of air as well as dehydration can all play a part here so do not be tempted to chance that one.

3 – TEENAGERS HEARTBREAK – Hard enough to be (or have) a teenager but this is the season when school breaks up and school romances do too. Having a fifteen year old in tow in Spain dragging her feet because she'd rather be with Matt (who is in Portugal and probably having a great time) is no joy. And if she finds romance on her holiday with you, she'll break her heart AGAIN when it is time to come home. Not much anyone can do, being aware of what could be ahead is the best we can offer.

2- SLEEP. When it gets really hot, sleep can be difficult. Air conditioning is the obvious answer but shelling out a couple of hundred pounds for something rarely used is not practical. Instead, keep all shades and curtains drawn during the day to keep room down to its coolest and have cold shower before you go to bed. Change your sheets to Egyptian cotton if you can, a light and comfortable material easily available nowadays. Keep pets away and have a glass of iced water by your side. Avoid watching TV or read too long. Go to bed when you are really sleepy!

1- HAYFEVER. The plague for many and one that comes almost uniquely with outdoor living. The advice here is more for people who are lucky enough to not know what hayfever is like! Just be aware that people can really suffer when you throw your next barbecue. Avoid tending to the garden or mowing the lawn before the guests come. If you stay inside, vacuum thoroughly (pollen loves carpets) and avoid cut flowers displays. Anyone with hayfever should be prepared anyway but prevention is as always better than cure.

So there you have it. Your guide to the perfect summer. It can be a wonderful season of freedom and where health reigns supreme, without anyone having to think too hard about it. All you need to do if you want to have a great season of outdoor living is commit to the idea and prepare a few things ahead, ensuring you will live that "holiday" feeling over and over again. And hope that the weather will commit to sunshine too. Whatever you choose to do, have a great summer!

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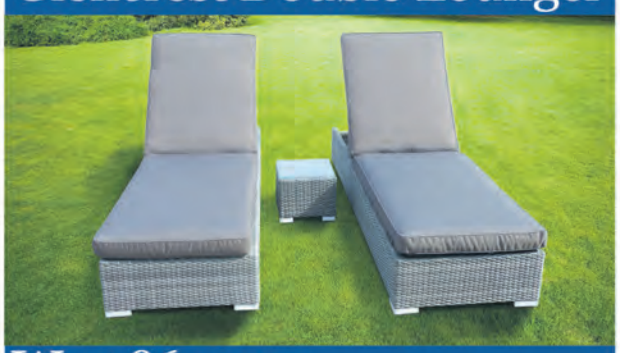

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